

De Klerk ends visit to Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — South African President F.W. De Klerk wound up his visit to Israel Wednesday after stopping to visit new immigrants on his way to the airport. Foreign Minister David Levy saw Mr. De Klerk off. Neither spoke to reporters. Israel radio said Mr. De Klerk was on his way to Taiwan. Earlier President Chaim Herzog hosted a farewell ceremony for the South African leader. On Monday Israel and South Africa signed a memorandum of understanding to increase cooperation in such fields as science, culture, industry, agriculture, tourism and economy. There was no mention of military cooperation in the pact. In July, Israel joined other Western nations in lifting economic and cultural sanctions against South Africa after the abolition of South Africa's last apartheid law, racial classification of citizens. During the sanctions period, there were several allegations that Israel cooperated with South Africa on weapons technology. These were all denied by Israel. South Africa Foreign Minister K.F. "Kiki" Botha told reporters during his visit that reported nuclear cooperation between the two countries was "a figment of the imagination of someone."

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Syria approves higher budget for 1991

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's parliament Wednesday approved a draft budget for 1991 with revenues and expenditure set balanced at \$4.69 billion Syrian pounds (\$7.56 billion), officials said. The budget was 22.8 billion pounds (\$2.03 billion) higher than last year's. The officials said the new budget was approved following five days of talks by parliament members and cabinet ministers. No further information was immediately available.

Syria's economy has improved since the government introduced laws and regulations encouraging private investors and exporters and easing foreign exchange rules.

U.N. mission to visit south Iraq

LONDON (R) — U.N. officials based in Iraq will travel to the south of the country this week to assess the plight of minority Shi'ite Muslims who fled their homes after a failed rebellion against the government. British officials said on Wednesday. They said the U.N. mission would return to Baghdad by the weekend to report to Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the U.N.'s special envoy to Iraq, who is due to arrive in the country on Sunday.

Soviet dancer tries to hijack aircraft

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet dancer tried to hijack a plane to the West Wednesday but was seized by KGB commandos who boarded the aircraft after it landed at St. Petersburg airport, TASS news agency said. TASS said the 162 passengers had been allowed to leave the TU-154 airliner before the KGB action and no one had been injured. A 29-year-old dancer named Igor Vecchianov passed a note to the crew as the aircraft approached St. Petersburg on a flight from Siberia. He threatened to blow up the aircraft if the pilot did not divert to Britain or another country in the NATO western alliance.

Knesset lifts immunity of member

TEL AVIV (AP) — Parliament Wednesday lifted the immunity of ultra-orthodox legislator Yaakov Levy to pave the way for his trial on forgery and theft charges. The 48-33 vote, with five abstentions, could weaken Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's coalition cabinet since Mr. Levy's Shas party has threatened to leave the government over the issue. Without Shas' five legislators, Mr. Shamir would have only a slim 61-vote majority in the 120-seat parliament. Shas toppled Mr. Shamir's previous cabinet in March 1990 by withdrawing its support over the peace process.

Turkish troops kill rebel Kurd in clash

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Turkish troops killed a separatist Kurdish guerrilla in a gunbattle in southeast Turkey early Wednesday, Anatolian news agency said. The clash with rebels of the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) took place at a hideout inside a tunnel construction site on the outskirts of Bithi town, the semi-official agency said. PKK's seven-year war with Turkey for an independent Kurdish state has claimed at least 3,300 lives.

Iran gives Turkey documents on seized arms ship

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has given Turkish authorities documents proving it owns the cargo of a Cypriot-registered ship seized while carrying arms through the Bosphorus, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. IRNA quoted Iran's Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Reza Bagheri as saying he handed the documents to Turkey's acting Foreign Minister Valih Dincer as a goodwill gesture to prevent further strain on relations between the two countries. The 2,700-tonne Cape Miles was seized in the Bosphorus waterway on Oct. 22 with a cargo of rocket launchers, anti-aircraft guns, cannons and ammunition, loaded in Bulgaria.

Masri reassures public on bread, flour subsidies

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government will retain its subsidy on bread and flour and is not planning any change in its policy towards these commodities, Prime Minister Petra Masri said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"Nor has the cabinet decided on any hikes in the prices of bread or on issuing coupons for them," said the prime minister against a backdrop of reports and criticism in the local press over the subject.

"What has been reported was mere ideas about the process of ensuring that the government subsidies reach those who deserve help," he said.

In recent comments to the press, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abu Ragheb said bread was to be added to the list of basic food commodities currently supplied to the people under a coupon system. However, he also said, the measure was not likely to be introduced in the near future.

At present, bread is available at 75 fils a kilogramme, a price senior officials say is almost one third of the actual cost in view of the price of wheat.

According to Mr. Abu Ragheb, a regularisation of the subsidy on bread and flour — which account for over two thirds of the total government support for foodstuffs — will save the treasury around JD 5 million annually.

Reports that the government was planning to introduce coupons for bread and the price of bread could go up in the free market had drawn criticism from the local press as well as several parliament members.

The priority in any government move to regularise subsidies on foodstuffs will be to ensure that the low-income segment of the population is not affected, Mr. Abu Ragheb has said.

"We are very aware that a blanket removal or reduction of subsidies will make it very difficult for some of our people and we will ensure that these people are protected against any such move," Mr. Abu Ragheb told the Jordan Times in an interview earlier this month.

In fact, he said, the government will channel part of the savings through the regularisation process as additional help to the needy sectors of the population.

Total government expenditure on subsidies in 1991 is estimated at JD 60 million to JD 62 million, compared with JD 90 million in 1989. A split-up of the 1991 figure showed that JD 31 million were spent on subsidising bread, JD 14

million on sugar, rice and milk, and JD 16 million to JD 18 million on fodder.

The figures reflect a saving of JD 25 million resulting from the coupon system for sugar, rice and milk introduced in mid-1990.

The present coupon system covers only families who possess civil registration books. Commercial establishments and food industries as well as foreign residents have to buy the commodities at higher market prices, also set by the government.

Senior officials, including Mr. Abu Ragheb and others, reject suggestions that the government move to regularise and streamline subsidies was prompted solely by a demand made by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as part of the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme.

"It doesn't matter whether the IMF wants it or not. What matters is that there is a lopsided situation which should be corrected and this means that the food subsidies should not be used for commercial purposes or go to those who can do without them," according to Mr. Abu Ragheb.

The present 75-fils-a-kilogramme price of bread, officials say, reflects subsidy support of almost two-thirds of the actual price in view of the international prices of wheat.

Syria 'determined' to reclaim all Israeli-occupied territory

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Damascus said Wednesday it was determined to reclaim all occupied Syrian territory and bitterly condemned Israel's move to place the Golan Heights off-limits for peace negotiations.

An official Syrian statement described the draft resolution on the Golan Heights passed by the Israeli parliament (Knesset) Monday as an attempt to undermine the Middle East peace process which began in Madrid on Oct. 30.

"The Israeli parliament's decision is a flagrant violation of U.N. resolutions ... and a challenge to the principles and objectives of the Madrid peace conference," the statement said.

The statement said Syria was "determined to reclaim all the occupied Arab lands in the Golan and end Israeli occupation of the rest of the Arab territories."

Syria and Israel held their first direct talks in Madrid on Nov. 3 following the opening of the conference, but the meeting ended with Syria calling for withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and Israel rejecting the demand.

The Israeli draft resolution confirms continued Israeli occupation of the Golan and urges the building of more settlements on the plateau.

"But this should not prevent all the parties from sitting together and negotiating on all problems."

That makes the difference between the key Arab states one of timing. Syria demands progress with Israel before overall talks, but Egypt is willing to talk on regional issues before formal bilateral contacts are known.

Invitations issued by the United States and the Soviet Union to the Madrid peace conference prescribed multilateral talks on regional issues two weeks after the start of one-on-one negotiations.

The multilaterals would deal with subjects like arms control, water resources, environmental protection and help for refugees.

The remarks by Mr. Mubarak, a key figure in deliberations that led to the Madrid conference, was the nearest an Egyptian official has come to saying that participation in multilaterals should not be deferred.

Al Masa'awat, a government-owned magazine that published Mr. Mubarak's remarks, also printed an interview with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. He visited Mr. Mubarak last week after meeting Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus and reportedly endorsing his position on a withdrawal commitment by

(Continued on page 5)

Peace talks opponents challenge negotiators

HEBON, Occupied West Bank (R) — Palestinian opponents to Arab-Israeli peace talks waved their fists at peace negotiators in the occupied West Bank Wednesday, demanding they should withdraw from more planned talks with the Jewish state.

About 200 Hamas and Marxist activists marched around 500 supporters of the U.S.-brokered Arab-Israeli peace talks who had gathered in Hebron to hear delegation adviser Faisal Husseini speak about the Madrid peace conference.

Palestinian negotiators and advisers, campaigning in recent days to rally Palestinian support for the bilateral talks, faced their stiffest challenge in Hebron, the West Bank heartland of the fundamentalist Hamas movement.

"Shame and disgrace to those handing olive branches to Israeli soldiers," read one demonstrator's placard, referring to recent pro-conference peace marches in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

A majority of the nearly two million Palestinians in the West

Islamists threaten to nullify Algerian elections

ALGIERS (R) — An election boycott threatened by Muslim fundamentalists could make Algeria's first multi-party national election meaningless, analysts and diplomats said Wednesday.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the main opposition party, called on the government this week to "clean up" the political climate before the vote, which was postponed in June because of fundamentalist riots.

First-round voting is set for Dec. 26 and caretaker Prime Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazouani seems unlikely to meet FIS demands, which include the release of imprisoned leaders accused of conspiracy against the state.

President Chadli Benjedid has for three years been steering

(Continued on page 5)

FAO: Iraqis suffering from serious food shortages

ROME (Agencies) — The majority of Iraq's 18 million people are suffering from serious food shortages, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Wednesday.

Its monthly report on the global food outlook said a recent FAO mission had "confirmed a deterioration in the food and nutrition situation."

"Serious food shortages are now affecting the majority of the population of Iraq," the FAO said.

The United Nations imposed a trade embargo on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, preventing Baghdad from selling the oil with which it used to finance vast food imports. Food is now rationed in Iraq.

The FAO said Baghdad had started to import wheat again, with limited quantities being bought from Australia, France and Turkey, but that it was unlikely Iraq would return to the international market in 1991-92 as a significant grain buyer.

Refugee workers in Baghdad estimate that Iraq used to spend \$4 billion a year on food before the Gulf crisis and that the government is only managing to provide Iraqis with about a third of their food requirements at subsidised prices.

U.N. sanctions have encouraged Iraq to try to grow more of its own food, but the FAO report said the outlook for the 1991-92 cereal crop, to be planted soon, was poor.

"Output will again be seriously constrained by shortages of agricultural inputs, machinery and spare parts," the FAO said.

It said that although Thailand had last July agreed to export 245,000 tonnes of rice to Iraq in 1991, only 45,000 tonnes had been shipped so far. It quoted unofficial market reports that a further 30,000 tonnes would be delivered soon.

U.N. needs more money

The U.N. commission responsible for removing or destroying Iraqi nuclear, chemical

and biological weapons needs about \$40 million between now and February to do its job, its deputy chairman said on Tuesday.

Robert Gallucci, a U.S. official

on the special commission in charge of scrapping Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction, told a Washington seminar the commission had already spent all \$11 million allotted by the U.N. secretary-general.

A few governments had given additional contributions amounting to a few million dollars but this was nowhere near enough to cover anticipated costs.

"Between now and roughly Feb. 1 our needs are going to expand dramatically because we are going to be moving the irradiated (nuclear) fuel out of Iraq," Mr. Gallucci told the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"Our needs in the area of fuel removal are about \$32 million today, \$32 million more is reasonable," Mr. Gallucci said on Tuesday.

The formal deadline for a questionnaire sent to Iraq a month ago expired on Tuesday but Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. commission in charge of scrapping Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction, said Iraq could have another month.

"Thirty days is very tough, 60

days is more reasonable," Mr. Ekeus said of the extension of the deadline.

"We requested from Iraq a very detailed declaration with regard to activities in the civil, in the military field which could be supportive of acquiring again weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Ekeus said.

"Our idea is to base our continued work on these declarations, which we hope will be honest and full.

"However, if Iraq does not cooperate on that very important task, we are authorised by the Security Council to find out ourselves with the same means we have used with such success so far," he said.

Mr. Ekeus made the comments during a television interview and discussions afterwards with reporters on progress in destroying and monitoring in future Iraqi capabilities to produce nuclear, ballistic, chemical and biological weapons.

In summing up his work, Mr. Ekeus said he thought Iraq had turned a new page and "for the first time they really understand" what was wanted.

The commission, he said, might be able to move to future compliance rather than hunting weapons caches.

The U.N. secretariat believes that member states should contribute in line with their regular U.N. dues. The United States is by far the biggest contributor to the U.N. budget.

Mr. Gallucci said he did not care which method was chosen as long as funds were made available.

"So far, I can say that our operations have not been cut... but funding is an issue for us. We are concerned that states take the necessary actions so that operations are not handicapped," he said.

He said it would take up to two years to destroy Iraq's enormous stocks of chemical weapons. There were 45,000 shells or other rounds of ammunition filled with

chemicals and a further 800-1,000 tonnes of poisonous chemicals stored in canisters and oil drums, some of which were in hazardous condition or even leaking.

Deadline on queries

The United Nations has given Iraq another month to submit a detailed account of its so-called "dual use" industries or face new U.N. search and destroy missions, a U.N. official said.

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Rains cause severe damage to farms

NORTHERN JORDAN VALLEY (Petra) — Several farms sustained severe damage due to heavy rainfall in the northern Jordan Valley region over the past two days.

Saleh Ubeidat, district governor of the region, said that he toured parts of the affected farmlands and directed emergency teams to help repair damaged roads, re-open canals and do other necessary work to help the farmers.

He said that his office was preparing a detailed report to be sent to the concerned authorities in Amman. According to the report, the areas of Balawneh and Abi Obeidat suffered the worst damage, with at least 40 dunums of land grown with vegetables destroyed along with nearly one tonne of potato and onions.

The streams of water carried away 50 olive tree saplings and destroyed irrigation networks and water sprinklers, the report said.

Working in cooperation with the civil defence units in the region, the district governor said that people were advised to stay away from low-lying areas and wadis and to move to safer ground.

UNRWA issues appeal for funds

AMMAN (J.T.) — Commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Ulter Turkmen has issued an appeal to donor countries to offer financial and in-kind assistance to the agency to help it carry out its humanitarian services to Palestinian refugees.

In his appeal issued in Vienna Tuesday, Mr. Turkmen referred to the huge number of Palestinian refugees who returned to Jordan and Palestine in the wake of the Gulf crisis and the severe difficulties they are facing at present. Following is the text of the commissioner general's appeal:

Rapid population growth among the refugees and continued instability in the Middle East region place new pressures on UNRWA's limited budget each year. Today, with much of the region still feeling the after effects of the Gulf crisis and Lebanon readjusting to normal life after a long civil war, the agency finds itself unable to meet urgent needs. Therefore, UNRWA Commissioner-General Ulter Turkmen in a letter to donor governments on Nov. 8 made special appeals to the international community for extra-budgetary funds.

Of some 250,000 returnees to Jordan since August of last year, it is estimated that the majority were Palestinian refugees. Several thousand Palestinians returned to Gaza over the last year. Many returnees had lost home, livelihood and a lifetime of savings overnight. Many who had supported extended family members in Jordan and Gaza returned to find themselves dependent on UNRWA services. Some of the institutions most affected by the large number of returnees, and least equipped to cope with them, have been the UNRWA schools.

Seven thousand returning children were added to UNRWA schools in Jordan this year; 1,300 in Gaza.

UNRWA has appealed for \$2 million for Gaza to build 30 classrooms, hire 35 teachers and construct sanitary facilities. For Jordan, UNRWA has appealed for \$4 million to build an elementary school, a preparatory school, hire 30 teachers, construct 17 classrooms, provide emergency medical help and offer a limited number of low interest loans to help create jobs. Only through the generosity of the donor community will UNRWA be able to implement these plans.

In his letter of appeal the commissioner-general said, "At this crucial time in the history of the region, I wish to draw your attention to some special and pressing needs affecting Palestine refugees, and to seek your government's financial support for extraordinary measures of assistance which UNRWA intends to provide, but which are beyond its capacity to fund out of its regular budget."



TRAINEE GRADUATION — A group of 15 trainees have completed a course on caring for horses in Jordan organised by the Animal Health Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with Edinburgh University in Britain and Abi Obeidat and Abi Obeidat suffered the worst damage, with at least 40 dunums of land grown with vegetables destroyed along with nearly one tonne of potato and onions.

Petroleum workers call for pay raise, better benefits

AMMAN (Petra) — Workers in the petroleum and petrochemical sector Tuesday reaffirmed their earlier demand that the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) give them a pay hike of JD 20 monthly, increase its contribution to the Staff Provident Fund, raise the medical insurance allocation to JD 250 per annum from JD 150 and cover the full medical costs in respect of the employees.

The workers' demand was expressed by Ahmad Haddad, president of the General Association of Workers in Petroleum and Petrochemical Industries and Yassin Matarneh, the association's secretary.

Speaking at a press conference, both Mr. Matarneh and Mr. Haddad said that the association's general assembly adopted a decision last July to go on strike but later stopped the strike in view of the intervention by the previous labour minister, Abdul Karim Al Dughami. Mr. Dughami attempted to settle the dispute with the company's management.

They noted that the minister decided to refer their case to a conciliatory body after failing to solve it with the company's management. The case was then referred to the Industrial Court, which held 12 sessions and decided to grant 15 per cent of the workers a JD 5 pay increase beginning of next year.

The court also decided to increase the medical insurance allocations by JD 50 per annum. Mr. Haddad and Mr. Matarneh contested the decision, saying that it does not solve their problem.

The JPRC employs some 3,400 employees.



JAPANESE NATIONAL DAY — The Japanese ambassador in Amman, Tadayuki Nomoyama, gave a reception at his residence on Tuesday on the occasion of the Japanese National Day anniversary.

The reception was attended by senior government officials, members of Parliament and the diplomatic corps in Amman.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

PSD brigadier promoted

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal decree was issued Wednesday promoting Brigadier Abdul Rahman Al Udwan of the Public Security Department (PSD) to the rank of major general. Brig. Al Udwan, who is PSD assistant director general, was awarded his promotion by PSD Director General Fadel Al.

Road accidents increase

AMMAN (Petra) — Seven persons were killed and 174 injured in 420 road accidents which occurred in Jordan in the first week of November. A Traffic Department statement said that the accidents rose by 37 over those of the previous week but the number of deaths dropped by three.

Minister leaves for Damascus

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabir went to Damascus Wednesday on a three-day visit to Syria. In a pre-departure statement, the minister said that he will meet his Syrian counterpart and senior officials to discuss bilateral cooperation in tourism related affairs.

Minister meets with USAID team

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tabeishat Wednesday met with a team from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to discuss protection of the environment in Jordan. He urged USAID to offer assistance to the ministry to help it carry out such projects and to set up children's gardens and libraries in various municipalities.

Stamps marking King's birthday issued

AMMAN (Petra) — The Post Office and Postal Savings Corporation is issuing a new set of postage stamps marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. The stamps, entitled "Donating Blood to Others is a National Duty," will be available in post offices around the Kingdom. The King was the first blood donor when he opened the blood bank in 1957, according to corporation Director Abdallah Al Jazi. Dr. Jazi said the stamps will be of two denominations of 80 and 160 fils.

Justice minister visits court

AMMAN (Petra) — Justice Minister Tayseer Kanaan Wednesday visited the First Instance Court in Madaba, 30 kilometres south of here and met its judges and staff to discuss the court's needs. The minister was briefed on the court's work and judicial issues.

JORDAN TIMES TEL: 667171

On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's Birthday Al Istiklal Club

Ukrainia Ballet Group in concert



at the Palace of Culture Al Hussein Sports City at 8 p.m. on:

- Friday Nov. 15 — Giselle Ballet
- Saturday Nov. 16 — Swan Lake Ballet
- Sunday Nov. 17 — Nut Cracker Ballet
- Monday Nov. 18 — Carmen Ballet
- Tuesday Nov. 19 — Giselle Ballet
- Wednesday Nov. 20 — Swan Lake Ballet
- Friday Nov. 22 — Nut Cracker Ballet
- Saturday Nov. 23 — Carmen Ballet

Tickets are available at:

- Al Hussein Sports City.
- Phoenix Cafeteria and Gallery, Gardens Street.
- Zahra Al Mad'aen Milli — Jubilee Circle.
- Abla and Antar Stores, Jabal Luweibdeh.
- Safeway International.
- Al Tawil Tours Agency, near Safeway.
- Geneva Coffeeshop.
- Music Box / Al Sweimeyyeh, the Eighth Circle.
- Al Shallal Restaurant, the Gardens Street.
- Rana Pizza, opposite Al Ra'i Newspaper.
- Rawan Wool, Gardens Street-Da'san Centre.

Jordan seeking extradition of suspect in Tel assassination

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan confirmed Wednesday that it has made an official request to the Swedish government to extradite a 47-year-old man suspected of involvement in the 1971 murder of Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tel.

"We have officially asked the Swedish government to extradite the suspect," said Mutassim Belbeissi, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry. "They (the Swedish government) are still studying our request."

The suspect, a Palestinian whose name was withheld in accordance with Swedish legal practice, was arrested at a refugee centre in southern Sweden on Oct. 4 under a warrant issued by Jordanian authorities. He has been held in custody without charges pending the extradition request.

Prime Minister Wasfi Tel was assassinated in November 1971 in Cairo while attending



the Arab League Defence Council meetings. Although the suspect is not thought to be the actual killer of the Jordanian prime minister, police say that he is suspected of being one of four men who took part in the assassination.

It is not clear what the Swedish government will do with the extradition request, handed formally to the Swedish embassy in Amman on Tuesday.

Although Swedish authorities have repeatedly expressed their keenness to help curb international terrorism, its policy prevents them from extraditing criminals, especially when the suspect could face the death penalty.

Jordan's justice minister, Tayseer Kanaan, indicated that in view of existing legislation in Jordan, it might be impossible for the Jordanian government to furnish any guarantee that the suspect will not be executed if found guilty. "If he was to be handed over to the Jordanian authorities, he will receive a fair trial and if he is found guilty he will be executed," Mr. Kanaan said.

According to Jordanian law, if one is found guilty of being an accessory to murder then he is treated like the killer himself, he said.

Mr. Kanaan said that he did not know whether there was any kind of treaty or legal arrangements between the Jordanian and Swedish governments binding one or the other to extradite criminals.

Under Jordanian law, if a certain period of time — usually 10 years — elapses in a murder case without any legal pursuit of the matter, then the case is dropped. But in this case, a warrant was issued for the arrest of the suspect, thus maintaining the validity of the case beyond the duration specified in Jordanian law.

"Public right drops after the lapse of 10 years from the date of the crime, unless legal procedures were pursued all these years," Mr. Kanaan said. "A warrant is considered part of these procedures," the minister added, referring to the warrant against the suspect issued by Jordanian police four years ago.

The formal Jordanian extradition request will be handled by Sweden's national prosecutor, the supreme court and the government, which will make the final decision on the fate of the suspect.

The suspect will stand trial in Sweden if the Swedish government refuses to comply with the Jordanian request.

Jordan Press Association bans writer for talking to Israel

Staff and Agency Reports

AMMAN — Jordan's Press Association on Wednesday dismissed journalist Sultan Hattab and banned him from writing because of interviews he gave to Israeli television during the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

The decision was adopted by an administrative council of the press association, which branded Mr. Hattab's interviews illegal and accused him of attempting to normalise cultural relations with the Zionist entity.

In a statement, the council condemned what it termed Mr. Hattab's "disgraceful behaviour" and said his television interviews constituted "high treason of Jordanian law."

The press association council's statement ran as follows:

"The council discussed the shameful act of Sultan Hattab who gave an interview with Israeli Television during the Madrid peace conference and considered it as a dangerous precedent, violating Jordanian laws which ban any contact with the Israeli entity."

"As the Jordan Press Association was the first organisation to place Arab journalists on a black list for dealing with Israel or calling for normalising relations with the Zionist entity, and in accordance with previous association resolutions, the council strongly condemns Hattab's shameful act and reiterates its

strong opposition to normalising relations with the Israeli entity in any form.

"Since the Hattab interview with Israeli Television constitutes a violation of the Arab boycott rules against Israel and a violation of the association's law and regulations which consider any contact with the Zionist entity as a capital treason, and in accordance with Articles 46 and 50 of the association law issued in 1983, the council has decided to dismiss Sultan Al Hattab from the association and ban him from serving as a journalist."

"The name of Sultan Al Hattab is to be added to the association's black list and the decision will be distributed to various organisations and unions as well as journalist unions locally and abroad."

"The association will request from all press institutions and newspapers in Jordan to prevent Sultan Al Hattab from working for them in accordance with association law," the statement concluded.

The measure means that Mr. Hattab cannot work as a journalist in this Kingdom, where the majority of people oppose normalisation of relations with Israel before it withdraws from lands it captured from Jordan, Egypt and Syria during the 1967 Middle East war.

"I am surprised about the press association's unfair decision," Mr. Hattab said in an interview. "I believe that there are attempts

- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Arab Traditional House, Selected Items of our Heritage" by Hama Sodeq Burrow at Bahdada Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting scenes from Aqaba and Jordan by Jordanian artist Kamal Shahawi Yassin at the Housing Bank Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition of traditional embroidery and handicrafts at the Marriott Hotel.
- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Shalabi at Al Orthodox Club.

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Exhibition entitled "The Arab Traditional House, Selected Items of our Heritage" by Hama Sodeq Burrow at Bahdada Gallery, Gardens Street.

★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Shalabi at Al Orthodox Club.



NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL

KHALDA, AMMAN

A Chemistry graduate is required to teach this subject full-time to students up to and including I.G.C.S.E. and "A" level.

Applicants must be able to teach fluently in the English medium to highly motivated, intelligent students and should be able to offer considerable familiarity with, and experience in, the British examination system at this specialist level. Prospective candidates should be able to start work immediately.

Those interested are invited to apply in writing, enclosing two references and a full, up-dated curriculum vitae, to Mrs. Ophelia Bishouty, director of the school, by noon on Tuesday 19 November 1991.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the school on 816893 or 827153/4. Interviews will take place on Thursday 21 November, 1991.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Established 1975

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An occasion to remember

TODAY'S celebration of His Majesty King Hussein's 56th birthday is a propitious occasion to pay tribute not only to his wise and courageous leadership but also to his unwavering drive and indispensable role in bringing this troubled region a step closer towards peace. What adds significance to His Majesty's historic decision to spearhead peace efforts is the fact that it has been made while the country has steadily moved towards achieving operational democracy and political pluralism.

It was no accident of history that parliamentary democracy in the Kingdom was launched over two years ago. The King knew and acted upon the need of Jordan and Jordanians to introduce the democratic process in a bid to involve the people themselves in the decisions that would eventually shape their future whether over the issue of war and peace or the political and economic restructuring of the country on the eve of the far-reaching changes that engulfed the entire world. So, as the King heads the drive towards honourable peace in the region and modernisation in the country, the people stood side by side with to fulfil these dreams and ambitions.

In retrospect, the King's political life has been characterised by one giant and bold decision after the other. In the process, His Majesty took on the mission of consolidating the existence, well-being and progress of the Kingdom where his great grandfather the late King Abdullah had left off about four decades ago. Yet of all the awesome responsibilities that the monarch had to shoulder, the most recent resolution to proceed on the path of waging peace in the area stands out as perhaps the most daring and consequential of them all. Surely his steps in the path of peace have not come easy or lightly but as a result of decades long bitter sweet experiences from all sides. This long voyage of ruling in highly versatile and volatile eras has obviously hardened his resolve to do what is right for his people and nation. In more ways than one, Jordan's trek into the unknown is fraught with danger. But it may still crown his long list of achievements and put Jordan on the right course not only towards prosperity and security but also political sophistication and maturity on par with the best there is.

The only worthy gift that our people can present to their monarch on his birthday is to assist and support him in these trying times, and to give peace its chance. The occasion calls for King and subjects to reflect on and shoulder together their awesome responsibilities and today is the time to do just that.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WHATEVER Israeli leaders like Shamir and Sharon say is not important and does not carry real weight because the whole peace process is in the hands of the United States, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that the United States holds the wheels of the train of peace and has the power to move it towards its destination undaunted by the Israeli leaders' statements. Ever since Washington came up with its initiative to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, all eyes were focused on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his shuttle mission in the Middle East because, the paper said, it is in Washington's power to bring the aspired peace to the region and put an end to Israel's arrogance. The paper said that the Arabs have the power only to say whether they accept a formula offered them through the peace negotiations or not but, weak and disengaged as they are, they can not force Israel by themselves to leave the Arab territories, and can not impose conditions on Israel. Therefore, the paper said, the Arabs are only counting on the United States to prove its credibility and to show the world that it respects the international legality and imposes it on all parties on equal terms. The paper said the real battle for peace is not between the Arabs and Israel but rather between the world community, led by the United States, and the application of Security Council resolutions which had been rejected by the Jewish state.

Al Dastour daily referred in an editorial to a decision by Israel's parliament placing the occupied Golan Heights off-limits for negotiations and said it was meant as a manoeuvre and a way of provoking the Syrians. Ever since the convening of the Madrid conference, Israeli leaders had been intent on taking decisions and carrying out actions, like the aggression against Lebanon, for the sake of aborting the negotiations, the paper said. Among Israel's evil designs is the latest decision to plant yet more settlements on the occupied Syrian territory, the paper said. It said that although these decisions and actions can not alter the situation, they can neither legalise Israel's occupation. Their adoption at this particular juncture was meant to sabotage the coming bilateral talks which aim at implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Israel realises that such decisions concerning the Golan Heights can by no means encourage the Syrians to make peace with it nor can they force the other Arab parties to end their hostility towards Israel, said the paper. For this reason, the Israeli leaders continue to defy the world community's will and reject its resolutions in clear defiance of the co-sponsors of the Madrid conference and the world community at large, the paper added. It said that it is the duty of the superpowers to put an end to Israel's poisoning of the atmosphere on the eve of the bilateral negotiations which the superpowers had planned as a prelude to a lasting peace.

Reflections

Don't pay the ransom

By Safwan Bataineh

IN its Saturday edition, Al-Dustour newspaper reported that the Cabinet-to-be will boast no less than twenty eight ministers so as to accommodate the ministerial aspirations of yet more MPs. As I read with mounting interest about the prime minister's valiant efforts to alleviate the overriding concern of the legislative branch of government, namely the divvying up of ministerial booty and other ceremonial prizes, my mind wandered off to an old comic scene in which a buffoon holds a number of people hostage by pointing a pistol to his own head while the "hostages" plead with him for their freedom. Similarly, the Parliament, which has clearly lost all sense of collective purpose, is holding the nation hostage to the personal ambitions of its members by threatening to bring down the Cabinet of one of its own.

Suddenly, I was struck by something akin to a thunderbolt and jolted out of my reverie. It took me a while to realise that it was an idea, since I haven't had one of those for quite some time. But what an idea it was! If we must acquiesce to the Parliament before it blows the first parliamentary Cabinet to smithereens, then why stop at twenty eight portfolios? Why not forty-one? This way, no government will ever have to worry about a vote of no confidence again. Additional benefits include hiring more civil servants (we could never have enough of them) and increasing by a half the areas in which the bureaucracy can reach out and touch the people.

Or we can tell the Parliament to pull the trigger. Better still, we can have a non-parliamentary cabinet that is compatible, enlightened and has the means and the will to set the country firmly on a course towards a pre-determined station (e.g. to become a NIC, a newly-industrialised country, by the year 2000). Such a cabinet will remain in power until political parties contest the next

parliamentary elections and the winning party can be invested with the executive authority.

This last option is both rational and correct. Here and the reasons why:

1. The enormity of the challenges facing Jordan calls for an extraordinary cabinet which combines a high degree of professional competence with exceptionally clear vision and selfless dedication. Furthermore, this "dream" cabinet must be in total agreement on priorities and policies so as to be able to mend a host of structural defects which form an obstinate impediment to economic and social progress.

The eleventh Parliament is conspicuous in its shortage of relevant professional and technical qualifications. This and the fact that you cannot get ten parliamentarians to agree on anything other than a policy of Islamist or socialist populism render it impossible to form an effective parliamentary government.

2. When party politics comes into effect, there will be a long period of political posturing and infighting. Sane policies will be the main casualty of this teething process. Therefore, the only time available to undertake the necessary structural reforms is during the interim period before the onset of party politics. This may be the last chance to have a technically proficient cabinet that can institutionalise basic reforms in a way that cannot be easily reversed by party politicians. It can also be argued that the proper cabinet to oversee the formation of political parties and the next elections is a neutral professional cabinet with no party affiliations.

3. There is no democratic rationale for bringing legislators into the cabinet. Executive authority is needed only for the implementation of a national policy platform or agenda. The last elections were not contested by political parties but by candidates who ran on personal merits and not on the basis of a national agenda. In fact, no group of legislators has bothered to formulate a comprehensive national agenda even after getting elected. So what is the basis for their ministerial claims?

It cannot be parliamentary traditions because Jordanian tradition does not support such claims. And it cannot be democratic precepts. In the world's richest democracy, for example, it is unconstitutional for a congressman or a senator to become a cabinet member unless he first resigns his legislative seat. More importantly, the electorate and most candidates, including the prime minister, made clear during the last elections their opposition to members of parliament combining both legislative and executive roles. The wish of the people should count for something in a democracy.

Having said all of this, I can see now that acquiescing to the legislators' demands is a thoroughly bad option. Not only is the parliamentary "jamboree" a stationary vehicle that is going nowhere, but the ongoing and seemingly eternal haggling over ministerial prizes is both demeaning and debilitating to the country and its institutions of government. The good name and reputation of the Kingdom of Jordan cultivated laboriously over four decades, is far too high a ransom to pay just to fulfil the ambitions of a few political mavericks.

methodology is bound to be challenged to become more in keeping with the objective conditions which rendered the mission necessary in the first place. The imperatives for change and the change itself will have to be synchronised.

While the objective conditions imply a reduction of Israeli influence, the concessions, which allowed issues of substance to be treated merely as matters of procedure, were made solely by the Palestinians and the Arabs. Such asymmetry has already caused Syria to threaten a boycott of the third phase (multilateral talks) unless progress is made in bilateral negotiations on the territorial question. The imbalance is bound to anger the Arab people sooner or later, despite their leaders' present docility and subservient demeanour. And such indignation can easily be exploited by an intransigent Israel which views the peace process as a belated threat to its ongoing absorption of the land, its fragmentation of the Palestinian community and its determination to pre-empt a state formation. The real challenge to Mr. Baker and Mr. Bush is not only to bridge the gap between the Arabs and Israel, but also between the objective conditions which propelled U.S. diplomacy towards Madrid, and the quality of change Madrid is expected to produce. That is going to depend on the pace at which specific proposals replace the heretofore necessary ambiguity. It will also depend on whether President Bush transfers the substantive positions of the U.S. from the realm of the abstract to that of the tangible and the applied. — Middle East International.

1. The issue of Palestinian representation is not a matter of procedure; it is substantive par excellence. Mr. Baker's acquiescence to Israel's demand that exclusion of diaspora and Jerusalem Palestinians be excluded renders Palestinian national rights, including their internationally recognised rights of return and self-determination, questionable and negotiable. It also lends a certain credence to the Israeli claim on Jerusalem, despite the well-established international position, to which the U.S. itself is committed. The issue of who represents the Israelis, Syrians, Jordanians etc. did not arise and could not have arisen.

2. The much publicised two-track approach represents a disingenuous attempt to side-step the central issue in the 43-year-old conflict. Issues of arms control, water resources, regional security and the environment did not arise out of an ideological conflict between the Arab and Israel. They derive naturally from the central issue — Palestine, which is the root cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The two-track concept, therefore, is not a procedural issue, but a substantive one packaged in procedural wrappings. While the direction of Mr. Baker's track is parallel, the tracks themselves are integral and complementary.

The real challenge

For these reasons, Mr. Baker's

The road to Madrid and beyond

By Naseer Aruri

EIGHT Middle East shuttles in seven months, paving the road to Madrid, constitute America's most sustained effort on behalf of nearly a quarter century. There are three main reasons for its so far relative success in contrast to the failures of previous U.S. attempts, from those of William Rogers (1969) to those of George Shultz (1988): the collapse of the USSR, the Gulf war and the deliberately ambiguous character of Mr. Baker's diplomacy, which devoted considerable time to talk about talks. From now on, American success or failure will depend on the pace of transition from the structure to the substance of negotiations and Washington's willingness and ability to mould that substance with specific proposals.

The strategic imperatives for settlement

The dramatic transformation of the strategic and political landscape of the Middle East has provided President George Bush with an opportunity to shape a new structure of relationships in which an Arab-Israeli settlement becomes a U.S. national interest. U.S. strategic planners now envisage a post-cold war revision of the world in which economic rather than military power will be the catalyst for change, and in which the Middle East, as a potential source of capital, will rest securely in the North American sphere. Given that U.S. relations with Japan and the European Community will have to consume the larger portion of American energies during the next phase, settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict becomes not only desirable but also necessary from the U.S. vantage point.

Stability was at the core of Mr. George Shultz's diplomacy which aimed to reduce the impact of the intifada on the U.S. policy on terms stimulated not by the intifada (whose card had already been played to vain in November 1988), but by Israel, whose "election plan" of May 1989 was declared by Mr. James Baker "the only game in town." The new "opportunity," however, ended Mr. Baker when Mr. Shamir renounced his plan in the spring of 1990, despite the potential of a Middle East settlement within an Israeli framework.

Mr. Baker, however, was to have a second "window of opportunity," now bolstered by objective and material changes occurring at the regional and global levels, which was not dependent, as before, on the imperatives of Israeli domestic politics and Mr. Shamir's shifting moods.

The Gulf war has effectively demolished the official Arab census on Palestine, eroded Arab solidarity and exposed regime insecurity in the Gulf. The illusion of Arab defence and the higher interest are now eclipsed by the spectacle of kings, sheikhs and presidents ingratiating themselves with Washington, thus enabling it to deal with them bilaterally and largely on the basis of narrowly construed interests rather than as a solid bloc with a nationalist and Palestinian agenda.

Strategic asset or expensive liability?

The Soviet eclipse has reinforced Mr. Baker's second opportunity, and produced an added imperative for a reassessment of the U.S.-Israeli special relationship. A diminished Soviet "threat" is simply incompatible with the notion of a strategic asset. In fact Israel is coming to look more and more like an expensive liability. The American public is less inclined to give foreign aid, now that a Soviet "threat" has been removed from Washington's foreign policy lexicon, and as domestic needs assume urgent and renewed concern in the midst of recession.

The recent finding of a combined Wall Street Journal and NBC public opinion poll (Oct. 15, 1991), which reveals that the percentage of Americans who would give aid to the Soviet Union (58 per cent) exceeds that of those

who would give to Israel (44 per cent), is significant.

The strategic imperatives for a modified U.S. policy in the Middle East, which derive from the end of the cold war and the Gulf war victory, may not be sufficient in themselves to produce a viable peace and the required stability. For the unfolding relationships of the U.S. in the region are complex. The imbalance of power in the region itself creates a new dynamic which impels the sole superpower to redefine its own national interest against the backdrop of the new realities. In that context, enhanced U.S. pre-eminence will take precedence over Israel's own aspirations for regional dominance. Washington is likely to dust off previous strategic blueprints of the Baghdad Pact and the "consensus of strategic concern," which would help incorporate the active Arab components of "Desert Storm" and the passive Israeli partner into a new Middle East order. The Arab parties which refrained from extending blessings to the destruction of Iraq (Jordan and the Palestinians) are placed on probation. Their incorporation into the new regional order will be dependent on the progress and outcome of the Madrid process. Meanwhile that process itself will be influenced by the degree of cooperation which the Bush administration is willing to show with its Arab allies and their appendages.

All of this implies that Washington's advantageous position vis-à-vis the Arabs and Israel will offer it a new flexibility, which, if it chooses to utilise it, can enhance the desired regional stability. That prospect is linked to America's perception of the role which Israeli security and Palestinian activism are likely to play in the next phase.

Reduced leverage

The concept of Israeli security is no longer likely to be the green light entitling the status quo in its favour at the expense of America's higher interests and designs. The recent controversy over the loan guarantees represents a qualitative change in Washington's diplomatic style. The linkage concept, which the Bush administration laboured stubbornly to keep out of pre-

play was a deliberate ambiguity in his diplomacy which left the various parties considerable room for individual interpretation and even self-delusion; it was designed to secure unanimous consent to attend the conference.

But after the opening speeches, the urge to tackle specific issues will replace the need for ambiguity, which has already fulfilled its task. Mr. Baker's mission will then be challenged by the aggrieved and the recalcitrant. The vague boundaries between substance and procedure which kept Mr. Baker's mission alive will have to

play the legislative and local races."

Public anxiety over the economy is allowing Democrats their first real hope for upsetting Mr. Bush a year from now, and as the Pennsylvania polls were closing the president signalled he was taking the threat seriously. Mr. Bush canceled a trip to Asia and Australia later this month to stay in Washington to monitor the economy — and the Democratic Congress.

Significant turnover in legislative races in New Jersey and Virginia gave evidence of a mood that could help Democrats against Mr. Bush but hurt them at every other level of government. And the day also gave a test to a term-limitation movement that poses a distant threat to majority Democrats in Congress.

There were a number of ways and means to minimise poverty, to cultivate every inch of land, to cover hills with green forests, to build more dams and reservoirs to store water for irrigation, to increase agricultural production, to produce more consumer goods, to cut down on imports and to start new projects to provide jobs for the army of university, college and high-school graduates who enter wide fields of life every year.

We raise our prayers to almighty God to grant our beloved

King the best of health and many years of fruitful, joyful

and peaceful life to enable him to guide us to the shores of real

peace and happiness of which we dream. Long Live Our Beloved

King and HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

LETTERS

A happy occasion

To the Editor:

The 14th of November is a national holiday for Jordan. It is our beloved King's birthday. Every year on that date we, Jordanians, celebrate the happy occasion with all sorts of festivities and activities.

King Hussein's birthday is not only a happy occasion, but a day for expressing our gratitude to our beloved and wise leader who, since acceding to the throne in 1953, has been giving Jordan a great portion of his time, care and affection. The blessings of social stability and progress in every aspect of life that we enjoy today are mainly due to our King's wise leadership, devotion and clear vision. So, we celebrate not just for fun but to thank the almighty God for giving us a great leader.

We celebrate to remember the past, appreciate the present and plan for the future. What has been achieved in Jordan during the past three decades is near miracle. For us, young Jordanians, the occasion must be a source of pride and inspiration. It must give us imagination and impetus to make Jordan a better and more beautiful place to live in. It must drive us to think of ways and means to minimise poverty, to cultivate every inch of land, to cover hills with green forests, to build more dams and reservoirs to store water for irrigation, to increase agricultural production, to produce more consumer goods, to cut down on imports and to start new projects to provide jobs for the army of university, college and high-school graduates who enter wide fields of life every year.

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King and HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Paula Robert Kaplan, Second Preparatory Class, Rosemary College, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unsaved manuscripts.

Weekender

Just in time

Nov. 14, 1991

Published Every Thursday

Knights of Malta to end exile enforced by Napoleon

By Joe Schlesman
Reuter

VALLETTA — Nearly two centuries after they were chased out by Napoleon, the Knights of Malta are returning to the Mediterranean island where they became famous.

The knights left Malta as defeated warriors. Now they are back as a charitable order, promising to restore part of the imposing Fort St. Angelo, their former head-

quarters in Valletta.

Once a feared force which defended Christianity in the Middle East with swords and maces, the 900-year-old religious order today devotes itself to charity work.

The knights were masters of Malta for 268 years and won everlasting fame when they repulsed a three-month siege by the military might of Turkey's Suleiman the Magnificent in 1565.

In June 1798 the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte gave the knights three days to leave the island after Valletta capitulated to him.

This year, the island government signed an agreement with the Order of the Knights of Malta — short for the Sovereign Military Hospitaler Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta — under which they will be allowed to use some of the buildings at Fort St. Angelo.

The Knights have undertaken to restore at their own expense the Chapel of St Anne and the house that was occupied by the head of the order, the grandmaster. It is

now known as the Captain's House.

Many grandmasters who died before 1577 were buried in the chapel's crypt. They were later reburied in the crypt of their conventional church, the Co-Cathedral of St John in Valletta.

Apart from the chapel and the Captain's House, the knights will also restore other parts of the fort which have suffered from the ravages of time and heavy bombing in World War II.

Some of the bastion walls, several feet thick and built to withstand Turkish cannon, bear the scars of German bombs.

Interior Minister Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, who signed the agreement on behalf of the Maltese government, stressed that: "Fort St Angelo would remain the property of the government."

After Malta became independent from Britain in 1964 the fort went through a chequered period.

A former Socialist government decided to use it for tourism. A Chinese res-

taurant opened there but did not last long. Nor did an acupuncture centre. The fortress fell into disuse.

The knights operate from headquarters in Rome where the activity pursue the humanitarian role for which the order was originally founded.

The order hopes to set up an emergency relief centre in Malta to store medicines, food and other supplies needed to help countries hit by natural disaster.

The knights have an embassy housed atop one of the bastions overlooking the entrance to Valletta Harbour and they finance the first blood bank set up on the island.

The agreement signed with the knights comes at a time when the government is trying to rehabilitate Valletta, known as "the city built by gentlemen for gentlemen."

Many of the best-known architectural gems in the city were built by the knights — including the Palace of the

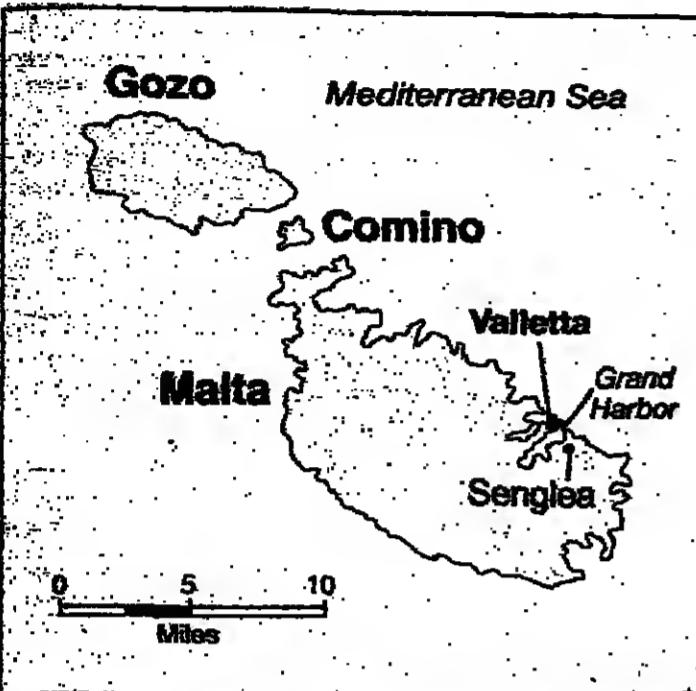


St. John's Cathedral in Valletta.

Grandmasters, now the presidential palace, and St John's Co-Cathedral.

The bastions of Valletta

and Cospicua — embodied the latest defensive strategies of the time when the knights were fighting.



By Francois Raitberger
Reuter

VERSAILLES, France — When Napoleon Bonaparte rode into battle friend and foe alike could smell him coming.

The French hero-emperor who was finally vanquished at Waterloo drenched himself in a light cologne before and after battle.

Now his perfume has been recreated at the world's first "Osmotheque" — a collection of the most delicate fragrances invented by man. "Perfumes are the most evanescent of human creations," says Jean Kerleau, who

Perfume lovers revive lost fragrances for unique museum

heads the project which is based near the Palace of Versailles outside Paris.

All that remains of fragrances after the production line stops, the last decanter is emptied and the last drop has evaporated from the skin are vague memories that fade away and disappear for ever.

Mr. Kerleau is making sure they will survive.

He says he has recreated the light cologne that Napoleon is known to have used by the litre before and after the fight.

It disappeared when he

died, but Mr. Kerleau reconstructed the formula from an order for ingredients which a servant had sent from the Atlantic island of Saint Helena to which Napoleon was exiled by his British conquerors 170 years ago.

Mr. Kerleau's kingdom of the nose is a small refrigerated darkroom in which hundreds of fragrances are sheltered from light and heat.

Since the French Perfumers Society launched the idea of the osmotheque 14 years ago, Mr. Kerleau's team has collected 532 perfumes that

are no longer on sale.

Through patient investigation, they have recovered samples and pieced formulas together.

Some 85 perfumes which had disappeared have to be reconstructed from scratch, a colossal task because the number of ingredients has grown to several thousand from about 50 in the 17th century.

Modern fragrances make up the bulk of the collection. "For the moment, we want to rescue what is most urgent.

Then we'll go back through the centuries," Mr. Kerleau said.

They are kept in the dark, at a constant temperature of 12 degrees Celsius (54 degrees Fahrenheit), protected from evaporation by a layer of argon gas which preserves them indefinitely.

He felt rewarded when a 70-year-old woman called, longing to again smell "Arlequinade," the lost perfume of her late mother which had haunted her childhood.

"She left saying, 'I've found my mother again,'" he said.

Most fragrances stored at the osmotheque were created since the late 19th century, when the French perfume industry rose to a virtual world monopoly that lasted until

World War II. They are kept in the dark, at a constant temperature of 12 degrees Celsius (54 degrees Fahrenheit), protected from evaporation by a layer of argon gas which preserves them indefinitely.

Perfume makers describe their creations as laying "a light invisible fabric between skin and silk."

Mr. Kerleau compares the job to that of an artist mixing colours on a palette or an architect conceiving a building.

When most perfumes were intended for women, the job was the privilege of men — as high-class French cuisine was

once the preserve of male chefs. But women are taking over now that half the cosmetics production is intended for men, Mr. Kerleau said.

About 80 of ISIPCA's 100

members are women.

It is fitting for the first Osmotheque to be located in France, where more than half the world's best-known perfumes are still made.

But it is ironic that it should be near the Versailles Palace which, according to Mr. Kerleau, would have been as much foul-smelling as

grand when the sun king, Louis XIV, ruled there, due to poor personal hygiene and sanitation.

True grit on the race car circuit

By Clare Pedrick

SIENA, Italy — Italian racing driver Alessandro Nannini had a reputation as a Formula One daredevil, but ironically it was a freak helicopter crash that brought a halt to his short but brilliant career.

The accident happened on the grounds of his father's country home in Tuscany. Nannini's right forearm was severed below the elbow in the crash. Doctors miraculously saved the arm and sewed it back on, using microsurgery techniques. That was almost a year ago. Now, 32-year-old Nannini is hoping for a second miracle. He is planning a comeback to the race track.

This time, the likeable Italian driver, who drove for Benetton-Ford with Brazilian team-mate Nelson Piquet, says he will be taking things more slowly. He knows that stepping back into a Formula One cockpit may be an impossible dream, and for the time being at least, he is planning to make do with second best. In October, he starts trials as a driver on the saloon car circuit, which uses normal cars with souped up engines.

It won't be the same, of course, but Nannini is hoping it might mark a first step back on the career he loved. "I personally would love to go back to Formula One racing, but I know it won't be easy," said the driver, talking at his apartment in the heart of Siena. "Formula One is a very special kind of sport. I'm hoping hard, but I may need another miracle, besides the one I've already had." Nannini can clearly remember that fall day last year, when the helicopter in which he was a passenger keeled over as it came to land on the lawn of his parents' villa. "Afterwards, I was lying there for



Alessandro Nannini

up a respectable record of placings — third in Britain and in Spain, second in Germany and then, the magic moment, first place at Suzuka in Japan in 1989.

Alongside veteran champion Piquet, Nannini was also helping Benetton-Ford carve a name for itself as a racing team to be reckoned with. The Italian knitwear firm is a relative newcomer to Formula One racing, launching its team in 1986, but it quickly made strides to take its current ranking of fourth place behind the more established teams of Ferrari, Williams and McLaren.

Alessandro Benetton, who handles the textile firm's racing activities, has publicly said there will be a place for Nannini, should the Italian driver be able to cope with the strenuous demands of Formula One once again.

Even so, the accident has been a bitter blow. It came at a time when Nannini's efforts were starting to bear fruit. He was beginning to gain recognition as one of the keenest young talents on the Formula One circuit. He had scored in impressive 65 points in the colours of Benetton-Ford since signing for the team in 1988 and was being spoken of as a future world champion. He had notched

beginning, I was too optimistic," he said. "I'd hoped to be ready to go back by this September, but the doctors always told me: 'Alessandro, you'll never do it. It will need one and a half years at least to get back the maximum use.' I have to wait for the nerves to knit back, and they grow at 1 millimetre a day."

As he talks, Nannini plays constantly with a small square of sponge, which he clenches between the fingers of the damaged hand. It helps him keep the muscles moving. "It also means I don't have to see how dumb the hand looks," he says, laughing. "It does look pretty stupid, but it's slowly getting better."

Rolling up his shirt sleeve, Nannini reveals a forearm that is badly misshapen with scars, but the muscles are clearly visible and respond vigorously as he flexes his hand. He has trouble with his grip, which could cause problems when it comes to controlling a steering wheel at 300 kph. Changing gears at high speed will also be difficult. But already he can feel the sensations of hot and cold on his skin and he can do many things that would have been unthinkable a few months ago. "I can't take a glass of water in my hand, and I have trouble lacing a pair of shoes — I now wear slip-ons," he said, smiling. "But I can do most things, and I can drive."

He can, and does, drive himself to his appointments, and in the past few weeks he has been back behind the wheel on an improvised race track on the grounds of his father's estate, in a high-performance saloon, training for his October debut.

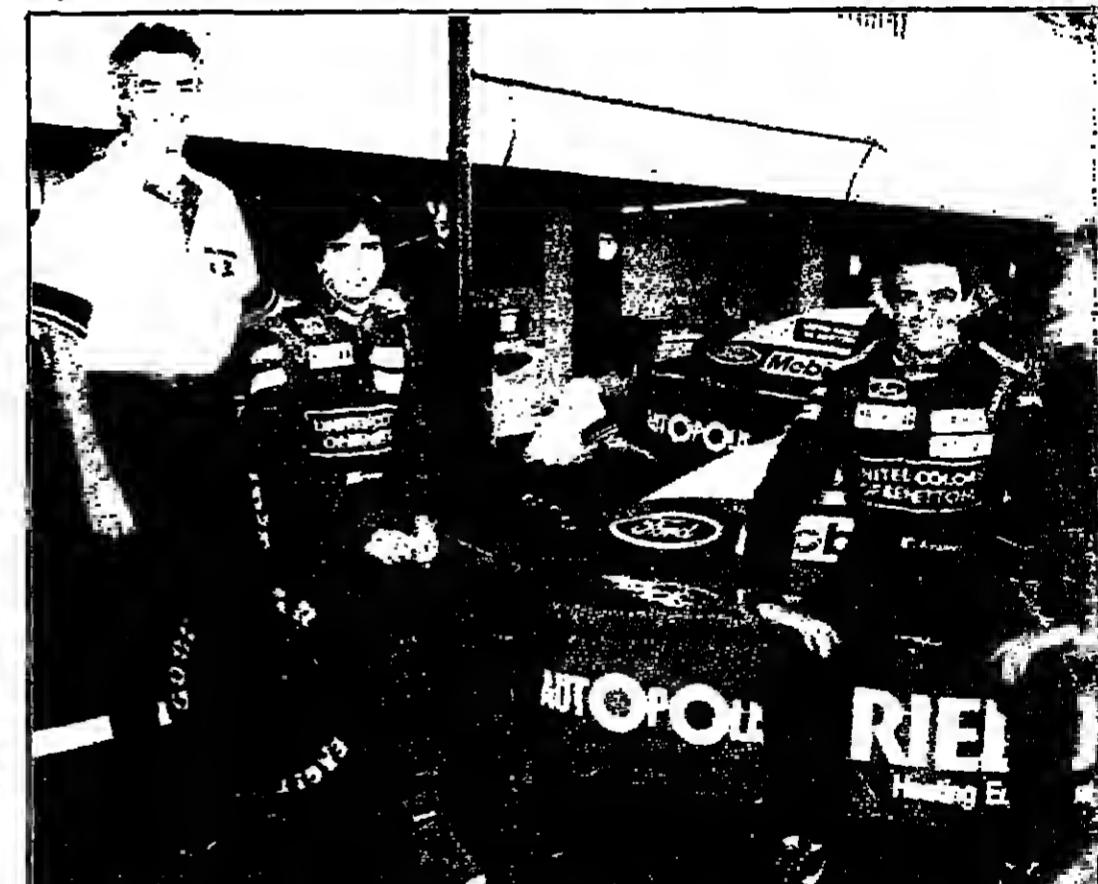
Nannini comes from an extraordinary family. His father, Danilo, is a pastry chef who made a fortune with a chain of bars and pastry shops that bear the family

name. His older sister Gianna, 37, is one of Italy's best-known rock stars. Alessandro, the youngest of three children, had been groomed for the family business, but he disappointed his father by choosing a career in racing instead, a source of bitter contention in the Nannini household. "When you are growing up, and every mealtime conversation with your parents is about the pastry business and coffee machines, you end up becoming involved in it," he said. "I always thought I would go into the family business. But cars were much more my line."

Nannini began as a rally driver. Then, gradually, he made his way up the ladder until he had arrived at his goal — the world of Formula One. "My parents never agreed to the idea. Only in the past two or three years did my father come to watch me," said Nannini. "It annoyed me a bit, because during the early years, I'd had to do everything by myself."

Since his accident, Nannini has made another attempt at being a businessman. He has become involved in the coffee side of his father's empire and has property interests. But he readily admits that life behind an office desk is not for him. "The world of Formula One is very fast. I'm used to seeing things done in five days. In this business, everything takes five weeks," he said.

For Nannini, the smell of the oil, the roar of the engines and above all, the thrill of speed, are things he finds hard to do without. Formula One racing, he says, is the maximum in the way of sensation and excitement. "It's a pure expression of speed, of meanness and of sheer grit," he said. "It's difficult to put it into words. It's like trying to describe



Before his injury, Alessandro Nannini (right) poses with team-mate Nelson Piquet.

what you feel like when you're making love. It's a strange sensation, the track, the curve, the speed, the feeling of pulling away from the rest of the field and of being completely at one with the car. It's something I've always loved ever since I was young. I've always loved engines in general, and cars in particular."

In the past few months, Nannini has taken the vacations he never had time to take when he was racing. With his wife Paola, he has been to the U.S., sailed around the Mediterranean, and spent time in Monte Carlo, where he also has a home. But the race track has never been far from his mind. He went to the two Italian championships this year — at Monza and Imola — to see his close friend and fellow

Italian Riccardo Patrese, who races for Williams-Renault, and to watch his former team-mate Nelson Piquet, and his own replacement, Brazilian Roberto Moreno, recently substituted by the young German driver Michael Schumacher. "But I didn't enjoy it that much," he said.

It was hard, admits Nannini, being on the outside of the familiar world that he himself describes as a "circus." "In a way we're a band of gypsies, but in the positive sense. Once a week, you take a plane, and there is a whole troupe of people, the mechanics, the engineers, the journalists, the drivers, the drivers' wives. Everyone has his job to do and you're always traveling. I loved it. It wasn't the kind of life you could complain about."

"It would certainly be more interesting if someone else won it for a change," he said. "I think Williams might take the title next year, though it's hard to say for sure. Formula One is a very fluid sport. You can never say, 'this team is no good.' In the space of a few weeks, everything can change. Something can always happen that makes you gain that extra second, and surge out in front of the others —" World News Link.

Marital bliss

By Maha Addasi

If wedding preparations are any indication of future marital "bliss" then Cupid is a criminal and should be brought to trial immediately for making people want to get married. Because if there is anything more of a test for love between a couple, it is preparing for the "Big Day," while combating all the comments, "suggestions," and "advice for their own good," being hurled upon the two from all directions.

"Marriage you say. That's the golden cage. Only one such cage exists in every million marriages, the rest are rusting metal," one lady said.

"Remember," said another person "All that glitters is not gold. Besides, a cage is a cage, and the word says it all."

"It's like a cage," one man said. "Those inside want to go out, and those outside want to go in."

But personally, I draw the line at the "melon theory."

"Marriage is like a watermelon. You can't speculate whether it will be good or bad."

To tell you the truth, the comments are the fun part. It is the decision-making that leads to suicides. Take this for example:

"I want the main colour for my wedding to be pink," says the happy daughter.

"Pink is too common," says the mother.

"O.K., peach then," compromises the daughter.

"Peach is too unavailable," says the mother.

"What about yellow?" suggests the daughter, curbing her temper.

"Yellow is the colour for jealousy," says the mother.

"What's left? Let me run through all the colours and you can say 'stop' when the colour appeals to you," says the daughter sarcastically.

"O.K.," agrees the mother.

"Whose wedding is it anyway?" shouts the daughter. "Forget it. I don't want flowers on my wedding. I want trees. I'm having the wedding in the jungle and that's final. The flowers there are on the house!"

"Ungrateful child. I'm doing this for your own good," returns the mother.

And so go all the decisions. Choosing the colour of the groom's suit becomes a crisis. The length of the sleeves of the bride's wedding gown becomes a catastrophe. And picking the flower girls leads to bloodshed.

What you get in the end is supposed to be worth it: A cage!

Not just any cage, mind you. No. It's one which you share with a person you must learn to compromise with, which in turn means that everything you plan never goes through. Soon enough kids share that same cage, then grow up to become teenagers, and you all live happily ever after (in that cage).

What a deal? What pure delight? This gives the word "bliss" a whole new meaning.

Let me tell you a secret, though. The cage is not formed



around a couple after they marry. The decision to marry is to have the "maturity" and "enlightened mode of thinking" to dare to step into a cage already there. So they really know what they are getting into from the start.

I know many married couples who would like to catch Cupid and put him in a cage — a golden cage.

Thursday, Nov. 14

1647 — England's King Charles I is recaptured and imprisoned.

1775 — American troops under Benedict Arnold invade Quebec Province in Canada.

1890 — Anglo-Portuguese agreement on Zambezi and Congo grants Britain control of Lower Zambezi and colonising rights up to the Congo.

1935 — U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaims Philippine Islands a Commonwealth and pledges independence by 1946.

1940 — German bombers attack English city of Coventry in World War II.

1947 — United Nations recognises Korea's claim to independence.

1957 — Britain declares Bahrain independent Arab state under British protection.

1960 — Two passenger trains collide in Czechoslovakia, killing 110 people and injuring 105.

1970 — Cyclone and giant waves devastate southern coast of East Pakistan and islands in Bay of Bengal, with death toll estimated at 300,000.

1975 — Morocco and Mauritania reach agreement on future of Spanish Sahara.

1977 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat says he will address Israel's parliament on Middle East peace if invitation is sent by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

1987 — Italy's Premier Giovanni Spadolini resigns after tiny Liberal Party backs out of his coalition.

1988 — Palestine National Council endorses new political strategy that implicitly recognises the state of Israel and renounces terrorism.

1989 — Black nationalist movement SWAPO wins a solid majority in Namibia's first national elections.

1990 — More than 300 people are arrested and about 70 injured as police clear anarchist squatters from Berlin neighbourhood.

Friday, Nov. 15

1492 — Christopher Col-

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

1967 — Twenty-three Turkish Cypriots die in fighting on Island of Cyprus.

1968 — Soviet Union announces it has launched world's largest space ship to date, the Proton Four.

1970 — Pakistani officials say death toll in typhoon and tidal wave that struck bay of Bengal may reach one-half million.

1972 — United States and several European allies invite Soviet Union to participate in exploratory talks on reducing military forces in Central Europe.

1977 — Shah of Iran, leaving Tehran for meeting with U.S. President Jimmy Carter, says he will work actively against increase in oil prices.

1987 — Officials close University of Nairobi after riot troops storm campus but fail to subdue students protesting arrest of student leaders.

1988 — Estonian parliament declares the tiny Baltic republic "sovereign" with right to veto Soviet laws.

1989 — Heart of Israeli soldier ambushed and killed by Arabs in occupied territories is transplanted into chest of dying Palestinian man; President F.W. de Klerk promises repeal of law allowing segregation of public facilities in South Africa.

1987 — Iran says Iraqi warplanes attacked unfinished nuclear power plant.

1988 — Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party scores solid victory in parliamentary elections.

1989 — Parliament dismisses Todor Zhivkov as head of state in Bulgaria.

1990 — Venezuela, Ecuador and New Grenada dissolve Union of Colombia; New Grenada becomes independent state.

1941 — Suez Canal opens in Egypt, linking Mediterranean and Red Seas.

1903 — Dahomey becomes French protectorate.

1913 — First vessels pass through Panama Canal.

1937 — Lord Halifax visits Adolf Hitler attempting peaceful settlement of Sudeten issue, marking start of Britain's policy of appeasement.

1954 — Jamal Abdul Nasir becomes head of state in Egypt.

1963 — Army in Iraq revolts and sets up new revolutionary government headed by Abdul Salam Arif.

1964 — Britain says it will ban arms exports to South Africa.

1971 — Vemij Thanon Kittikachorn seizes power in Thailand, abolishes parliament, dismisses cabinet and suspends nation's constitution.

1972 — Former Argentine dictator Juan D. Peron returns to his homeland after 17 years of exile.

1976 — China sets off its largest nuclear explosion in atmosphere.

1977 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat formally accepts invitation to visit Israel, ignoring uproar among Arab nations and his own government.

1985 — Colombian officials estimate more than 21,500 people dead or missing from volcanic eruption and mudslides in Andean valley four days earlier.

1987 — Iran says Iraqi warplanes attacked unfinished nuclear power plant.

1988 — Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party scores solid victory in parliamentary elections.

1989 — Parliament dismisses Todor Zhivkov as head of state in Bulgaria.

1990 — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev holds inconclusive talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Monday, Nov. 18

1936 — Germany and Italy recognise General Francisco Franco's government in Spain.

1941 — British troops launch attack in West African desert in World War II.

1970 — China names ambassador to Soviet Union, restoring top-level diplomatic relations for first time in four years; West Germany and Poland agree to restore relations, ending 31 years of enmity.

1976 — Twenty-seven people are executed in Ethiopia for alleged plots against two-year-old military government.

1977 — Egyptian embassy in Athens is stormed by Palestinian students, and embassy in Beirut comes under rocket attack as protests spread over Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's plan to visit Israel.

1978 — Jonestown massacre occurs in Guyana, with U.S. congressman and four other people killed as they try to leave People's Temple camp — and almost 900 cult members commit suicide.

1987 — Lawyers group reports systematic violations of Geneva Convention bans on genocide, torture and use of chemical weapons by Soviet and allied troops in Afghanistan.

1988 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat formally accepts invitation to visit Israel, ignoring uproar among Arab nations and his own government.

1989 — Khalifa of Sudan is killed by Sir Reginald Wingate on the White Nile.

1924 — Sir Lee Stack, British government of Sudan, is slain in Cairo.

1942 — Soviet troops counterattack at Stalingrad and surround German troops in World War II.

1961 — About 4,900 Algerian rebels in French prisons end 19-day hunger strike an assurance they will be treated as political prisoners.

1977 — Dr. Watson's holiday is ruined by the enigmatic disappearance of Lady Frances.

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2017 — Dr. Watson's holiday is ruined by the enigmatic disappearance of Lady Frances.

2018 — Dr. Watson's holiday is ruined by the enigmatic disappearance of Lady Frances.

2019 — Dr. Watson's holiday is ruined by the enigmatic disappearance of Lady Frances.

2020 — Dr. Watson's holiday is ruined by the enigmatic disappearance of Lady Frances.

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2022 — Dr. Watson's holiday is ruined by the enigmatic disappearance of Lady Frances.

2023 — Dr. Watson's holiday is ruined by the enigmatic disappearance of Lady Frances.

2024 — Dr. Watson's holiday is ruined by the enigmatic disappearance of Lady Frances.

2025 — Dr. Watson's holiday is ruined by the enigmatic disappearance of Lady Frances.

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Jean-Jacques Annaud — a prodigious film director

By Pierre Albert Lambert

After *La Guerre De Feu*, The Name Of The Rose and *L'Ours* (The Bear), three films characterised by deep originality and ones which shot him to the forefront of world cinema, Jean-Jacques Annaud is now bringing Marguerite Duras' successful novel, *L'Amant* (The Lover), to the screen.

PARIS — Jean-Jacques Annaud, who holds a place apart in the world of cinema, is a man of challenges. First of all, challenges to himself: Many films considered as "unfilmable," is what keeps him on the move.

He had barely finished *L'Ours* (The Bear) when he disconcerted his fans with his intention to turn Marguerite Duras' novel into a film. The love story between a very young European girl and a Chinese businessman in pre-war Indo-China is certainly a good subject, but here, we are a long way away from the highly spectacular films that the maker of *La Guerre De Feu* had accustomed us to.

"I found some fascinating things in this book," Annaud declared, "Asia, the colonial world, the places described by the novelist and which I went to reconnoitre." He wrote the dialogues together with the novelist, several of whose works have already been brought to the screen (*Barrage Sur Le Pacifique*, *Moderato Cantabile*, etc.) and who collaborated with Alain Resnais when he was making *Hiroshima Mon Amour*, in 1959.

With his clear eyes and Roman-like curly hair, J.J. Annaud is the son of a Paris railway-worker. As a child, he was keen on cinema and collected old projectors,

cameras and viewers. When he was 18, he signed on at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Cinématographiques (IDHEC) cinema school while continuing his studies in literature. In 1965, when he was 22, he did his military service in Cameroon. He was won over by Africa and decided to make his first film there.

On his return to France, advertising had just been allowed on television and the young film-maker found a well-paid job in this area. In 10 years, he made 400 films extolling the qualities of raspberry yoghurt and the virtues of fluoride toothpaste. He was crowned as the king of advertising films, but he realised that he was wasting his promising talents. However, the money he was making hand over fist would ensure his independence as a filmmaker.

In 1976, he returned to Cameroon to make his first full-feature film: *La Victoire En Chantant*, a satire on colonialism and warped patriotism. The work was shunned by the French public. However, it won an Oscar for the best foreign film in the United States.

In *Coup De Tête* (1979), Annaud tells the story of a football player held aloof by his team. It gave him the opportunity to depict a certain chilly and petty provincial mentality. Thanks to the success of this film, he obtained the agreement of Fox to carry out a project he was very keen on: making a film of Rosny the elder's novel, *La Guerre De Feu*.

It was a real challenge. The director explains that he wanted to make prehistoric man live again for us, at the very moment when he discovered fire. And he wanted to achieve it without using speech. The actors would make themselves understood using gestures, cries and grunts. When people in the cinema world heard him speak about his project, they wondered if Annaud was

slightly mad.

This film, which is unlike any other, was a worldwide success. It was a milestone in the history of cinema. Critics acclaimed the director as a "prodigy of the camera." Annaud received fabulous proposals to move to Hollywood. But he prefers the life he leads on his farm in the Loiret, in the heart of the "garden of France," to California high life.

It was there, by the fire-side, that, one day in 1984, he discovered Umberto Eco's bestseller: *The Name Of The Rose*, a medieval thriller whose sophisticated plot takes place in an abbey in the 13th century. Annaud turned it into a highly colourful film, with skilfully distilled suspense. It was a great success, especially in Europe.

A year later, on reading James Curwood's *Grizzly*, he was equally impressed. "A perfectly simple story," he wrote to the future producer of *L'Ours* (The Bear). "Two hunters in a forest, an orphan

bear-cub, two big bachelor bears, the point of view of the animals."

The perfectly simple story became a colossal undertaking with an astronomical budget. Ten times as much film footage as for an average film, with bears, weighing 850 kilos, brought by special plane from the United States to the heart of the Alps where the film was being shot.

"*L'Ours*" is a fascinating picture-book. Making the film had been a continuous technical feat and it was to fascinate young and old alike all over the world. It is still winning its creator praise and trophies.

What will J.J. Annaud's next film, after *L'Amant*, be? Once again, the realisation of one of his dreams: A film about Eskimos which he will make in Greenland. "With a concern to show the Western spectator a different civilisation from ours," he explains — *L'Actualité en France*.



Jean-Jacques Annaud

Japanese are mad for Mozart

By Elaine Kurtenbach

TOKYO — Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart never visited Japan and probably never heard the soulful tunes plucked on the banjolike shamisen. No matter. This year the nation's just mad for Mozart.

Although hundreds of concerts are commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Austrian composer's death on Dec. 5, 1791, the Japanese crave more than mere music.

In a true mercantilist fashion, companies have outdone themselves turning out namesake chocolates, sake, and even lingerie for rager fans.

The most intimate tribute to Mozart may be Triumph International's black brassiere studded with blinking lights. When fastened, it plays "twinkle, twinkle little star" — a tune the manufacturers believe was authored by Mozart.

The computer chip-laden bra and matching panties are worth about 145, although the promotional gimmick is not for sale because it can't be washed, company spokeswoman Tadako Mushi said.

Dairy managers and at least two brewers of rice wine claim that playing Mozart's music helps cows produce good milk and bacteria produce good sake, some of which is named after the composer.

The *Seawada* Brewery in western Japan pipes Mozart programmes through its plant every day. "There's all kinds of classical music, but Mozart seems to make the best sake, maybe because it's so gentle," says Brewery worker Hatsu Kodama.

It's a claim even academics here ponder seriously.

"If you were going to make a sake named after Bach, Mozart, Miles Davis or Saburo Kitajima (a singer), I suppose Mozart would be the best choice," Hideo Takahashi, a Meiji University professor and an expert on the composer said in an interview in the highbrow monthly magazine *Chuo Koron*.

"I guess you'd have to drink it to find out," said writer Takeo Ashizawa.

All of this folderol dismisses other Mozart specialists such as Bin Ebisawa, president of Kunitachi College of Music in Tokyo.

"Mozart isn't for eating, drinking or wearing, it's for listening," Mr. Ebisawa said. "A memorial year should be observed quietly, with some consideration for the sadness of Mozart's passing."

Mr. Ebisawa and other hard-core Japanese Mozarteans want nothing to do with Mozart pens, chocolates and lingerie. They're solely interested in the man and his music.

French film of legendary extravagance finally reaches screen

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuter

PARIS — It has been billed the most extravagant French film ever made. But after three years of delays, injuries, strikes, staff walkouts and financial crises, perhaps the most remarkable thing is that it got made at all.

Les Amants Du Pont Neuf (The Lovers Of The Pont Neuf), a melodramatic tale of tramps slumming it on Paris's most famous bridge, has finally reached the screen — with critics bitterly divided over whether the whole agonising project was worth it.

Leos Carax's film is the talk of the town, and much of the talk has been about money — 160 million francs (\$28 million) at the latest estimate, or five times the original budget.

Quite how Carax managed to burn so many holes in the pockets of three exasperated

producers and thousands of financial backers is a story that could make any accountant weep.

Carax has to forfeit a non-renewable three-week permit to film on the real Pont Neuf after his leading man, Denis Lavant, was immobilised with a ripped tendon in his hand.

Instead he had the bridge — along with large chunks of central Paris — reconstructed on a windswept plain in the Camargue Marshes of southern France.

Hundreds of builders laboured for months to construct the 10 hectares (25 acres) set, and continued to work on it for the entire marathon shooting period as gale force winds knocked down building facades and the fake River Seine burst its banks.

The project, begun in 1988, ground to a halt several times as producers ran out of

money, key crew members left to honour other commitments and disputes erupted over pay and conditions.

But the expense did not stop there. For a scene taking place on the 1889 bicentenary of the French Revolution, Carax re-enacted the Baroque firework display which the city of Paris organised for the occasion.

Instead he had the bridge — along with large chunks of central Paris — reconstructed on a windswept plain in the Camargue Marshes of southern France.

Disarmingly terse directions in the screenplay turned into financial nightmares. The two lines — "Michelle goes water-skiing on the Seine, Alex drives the outboard motor" cost five million francs (\$800,000) to realise.

Such dizzy extravagance has earned Carax comparisons with D.W. Griffith, the Hollywood pioneer who rebuilt ancient Baghdad and imported elephants for his 1917 epic *Inferno*.

Less flatteringly, critics fear *Les Amants* could be

come the French version of *Heaven's Gate* — Oscar-winner Michael Cimino's disastrous Western whose runaway budget and box office failure nearly ruined his studio, United Artists, in 1981.

The lovers of the title are Alex, a depressive fire-eater (Lavant), and Michelle, an artist who has run away from her bourgeois background and is gradually going blind from a rare eye disease (Juliette Binoche).

The two sleep rough on a Pont Neuf closed to traffic for repairs, and soon embark on an intense and painful affair narrated with stunning visual fantasy.

Tramps who discuss sushi (Japanese raw fish) or display perfect water-skiing technique with an improvised wooden board and a stolen police patrol boat might sound implausible. But Carax is clearly more interested in

images than realism.

In the end, the lovers are saved from drowning in the Seine by a barge bearing the same name — Christian Fechner — as the producer who finally brought the film to the screen.

Les Amants has its detractors. "One hundred and sixty million francs, and for what? one bridge, three tramps and a cat," said the magazine *L'Express*.

But the general reaction has been cautiously favourable — a feeling that now it has reached the screen the public might as well enjoy it.

"The film is here. Nothing else counts... A film whose form, more than its content, oozes an emotion as pure and immediate as the great unforgettable pre-war melodramas," said *Le Monde*.

Masterpiece or flashy extravagance, *Les Amants* has succeeded in creating a myth around its 32-year-old director with just his third feature.

Stories about about Carax's ability to persuade his actors, crew and backers that they were creating something exceptional.

Binoche, star of the film of Milan Kundera's *Unbearable Lightness Of Being*, put a promising international career on hold for three years to see the project through.

When forced to half shoot, Carax organised poster campaigns declaring across France: "The Lovers Of The Pont Neuf will see the light of day."

Such boundless faith in himself both fired and exhausted Carax's tight circle of collaborators.

"I gave three years of my life to this adventure," Lavant told the film magazine *Premiere*. "On the last day of shooting, I heaved a great sigh of relief."

No rest for weary Wagnerian opera singers

By Tim Klass
The Associated Press

booked about three years in advance.

"I call it the glorified gypsy life," Johns said.

Years may pass without more than a week or two of vacation for singers like Johns, soprano Gudrun Volpert and bass-baritone John Del Carlo, who appeared in "Der Ring Des Niebelungen" at the Seattle Opera last summer.

Volpert reveled in a six-week break at home in Austria last spring after debuts at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Teatro La Fenice in Venice, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires and the Scott-

tish Opera in Glasgow in less than a year.

"Back to my garden — ah, ah, to feel my roots. It is so necessary, so good to feel the earth," she said.

"All I sing, I feel, it goes through my heart," Volpert said. "It takes a little piece of my heart."

"There's definitely an element of sacrifice," Johns said. "You have to serve the profession."

For Del Carlo, a San Francisco native who turned 40 recently, singing *Donner* in "Das Rheingold" and *Gunter* in "Gotterdamerung" meant he was unable to check

on the construction of his new home in Port Richey, Florida.

On the other hand, he got to spend the summer with his wife, Deborah, and their 8-year-old daughter, Janine.

The next time the family will be together is two weeks in December after performances in Paris, Cologne, and Boston. He returns to Cologne in January, then heads for San Diego and won't see his family again until April.

Only the superstars can afford to bring their children from city to city, hiring tutors along the way, he said.

"That's the part I don't like about this business, the travel, because of separations," Del Carlo said. "It is unusual to maintain a family in this business."

When his agent called with another offer to follow San Diego, "We just looked at each and shook our heads," he said.

The 52-year-old Johns, who sang both *Siegfried* in the Seattle Ring, thought he had put a stop to the incessant travel. After 15 years without a break as long as three weeks, he had lined up a long breather while he and his wife moved from New

York state to a new home in Port Richey.

Then, late in May, he got a call for desperation. A Dutch tenor hired to sing *Siegfried*, Jan Blinkhof, had to undergo sinus surgery.

"It was very difficult for me to persuade my wife to give up our first real vacation... the first time in 17 years that I've had 2½ months off," Johns said.

"There's definitely an element of sacrifice," he said. "There's not anything that's all that exciting about it. It's all hard work, actually... kind of boring."

Dutch art world torn by restoration of abstract canvas

By Sara Henley
Reuter

subtle variations of colour in the world's original Colour Field (a massive red rectangle) have been destroyed by the well-known American restorer.

But the director of Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum, which owns the work, has accepted the restoration as good.

The canvas was returned to the museum in August having spent five years — somewhat longer than expected — in Goldreyer's New York Studio.

The 815,000 guilder (\$424,000) cost of restoration was also about half as much again as budgeted in 1986, said museum spokesman Maarten Berthoux.

"Our own restorer Elisabeth Bracht is of the opinion

that the work was done with a roller," said Mr. Berthoux.

The experts also said Mr. Goldreyer may have used acrylic paint, instead of oils as used by Newman, who died in New York in 1970, aged 65.

Goldreyer has denied committing such deep artistic sacrilege. He has worked on paintings by abstract luminaries such as Elsworth Kelly, Robert Mangold and AD Reinhardt.

Newman's original red rectangle was created by the interplay of vertical brushstrokes of magenta (pink) and sienna (orange) shades of red, wrote restorer Ijsbrand Hummel in the Dutch newspaper *NRC Handelsblad*.

"There now hangs a clum-

sy imitation, on a destroyed work, a matt, closed, lifeless surface, a paradox of itself, which we are supposed to 'admire' in an absurd formation which totally clashes with Newman's conception," Mr. Hummel wrote.

The restored work contradicts Newman's self-proclaimed aim of "confronting the dogma... which had reduced red, yellow and blue into an idea-didactic," the experts said.

The painting also boasts narrow vertical stripes, one in blue and one yellow on the extreme edges of the five and a half by two and a half metre (18 feet by eight feet) canvas.

But the row

Feeling senile? China's got just the medicine for you

By Andrew Quinn
Reuter

PEKING — Feeling senile? Here's just the stuff for you.

One handy gulf-sized bottle of Quing Chun Bao anti-ageing liquid will cut your stress, promote "anti-senility" and secure "the maintenance of unfailing strength."

Or so claims the English blurb on the packet. Chinese medicine, long the arcane province of Asian herbalists and Chinatown housewives, is attempting a marketing move into the mainstream.

While most Chinese remedies are still concocted by backroom chemists following ancient prescriptions, many are now produced by shiny, modern factories and sent to

store shelves in more consumer-friendly packaging.

Peking hopes that, spurred by a little English advertising, the world will snap them up.

"May I tell you about our cigarette? It is very good for curing haemorrhoids," said one eager young lady, who represented the Harbin Wan Long International Medicine Cigarette Company at a recent Peking conference on traditional medicine.

Shenhua-brand cigarettes, she explained, use herbal extracts to reduce swelling of both internal and external haemorrhoids, as well as to stop bleeding. The company's brochure promised to relieve the buyer of "un-speakable suffering."

"It doesn't cure cancer, but it can help with other problems," she said.

China's leaders, ever eager to publicise the country's historic achievements, are paying new attention to Chinese traditional medicine.

"Exports of Chinese medicine have expanded to include 105 countries and regions," Li Tieying, head of the State Education Commission, said at the recent opening of the international conference, the first of its kind ever held in China.

"Our national system for the production of Chinese medicine materials has taken shape."

The results of this system, ranging from innocuous-looking pills and vials to com-

plicated pieces of electrical machinery, were on display at Peking's premier convention centre.

There, armed with glossy brochures and an uncertain command of English, China's best medicinal salesmen were ready to flog their wares.

The Xianyang Health Care Products Plant was advertising its "505 mighty vitality belt," which it said was a modern adaptation of a Tang Dynasty cure known as the "Belly-bag of longevity."

The bright plastic belt, stuffed with ingredients including ginseng and rhinoceros horn, should be worn around the waist by people suffering from "deficiency of vital energy and blood."

Blood deficiencies, along

with senility and a condition known as "hysterical paralysis" were also under attack by the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which showed its latest medicinal inventions in a large, gleaming booth at the fair.

Army doctors made their contributions to Chinese traditional medicine — including an anti-baldness elixir and herbal toilet paper — thanks to "the correct leadership of the Central Military Commission and the General Logistics Department," according to a PLA publicist.

"It works, you'll never catch cold if you use it," he said in a booth decorated with awards and testaments, including what he said was a deal with Saudi Arabia to begin producing the solution in the Arabian kingdom.

Nose smearing solution, like most of the products on

nomads, was selling its special caterpillar tea. Tibet was marketing a number of pills, all of which are to be taken in the morning with glasses of warm liquor.

One of the most aggressive salesmen at the show hailed from the capitalist island of Taiwan. Wang Jui-Sheng's pride is new cold cure, applied around the nostrils, which he has christened "nose smearing solution."

"It works, you'll never

display, offers few clues as to its ingredients. Alarmingly, however, Mr. Wang does calmly relate how mice injected with the liquid "died of collapse."

The Chinese are proud of their medicinal tradition, which combines well-known procedures such as acupuncture and massage with ancient recipes for herbal poultices and oral cures made from a variety of plants and animals — some now endangered.

Typical of the treatments on offer at the Peking show was "the electrothermal needle," an anti-cancer device developed by the Inner Mongolia Research Institute of Traditional Chinese Mongolian Medicine.

The dangerous-looking apparatus was effective, the institute said in its promotional flier, because it "was manufactured on the theory of 'fire puncturing,' one of the nine needling techniques to puncture with a red-hot needle."

Drive on to end bottle-feeding in world's hospitals

By Rene Pastor
Reuter

MANILA — Health campaigners believe they have won an important victory in the battle to promote breast-feeding — a battle in which the lives of a million babies a year are at stake.

They have secured an international agreement to ban companies that make infant milk formula from distributing their products free in hospitals by 1992. Twelve countries say they will implement the ban by the end of 1991.

"This is a major step forward for us," said UNICEF Executive Director James Grant during a visit to Manila for a regional conference.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates a decisive shift back to breast-feeding would prevent a million infant deaths every

year. Bottle-fed babies do not ingest the immunities against disease that mothers pass to breast-fed babies.

If a baby is bottle-fed shortly after birth, it is hard for the mother to encourage it to breast-feed later. Mothers are then landed with the expense of buying formula, Mr. Grant said.

UNICEF officials say the Philippines, along with Bolivia, Brazil, Egypt, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand and Turkey have agreed to end free formula distribution in hospitals by the end of 1991.

The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is still suspicious of the formula manufacturers, saying companies such as Swiss-based Nestle Inc and the U.S. American Home Products Corp. are reluctant partners in the campaign.

"The milk companies are finally making a formal commitment to end supplies of substitute milk formula but ... it is unconscionable that it took so long to do so," Mr. Anwar Fazal, the WABA coordinator based in Malaysia, said in an interview.

"The campaign has moved into a new, critical phase."

Suspicion of the milk companies stretches back to 1981, when they opposed an international code prohibiting the distribution of formula in

maternity wards.

Mr. Fazal said the companies tried to undercut the code's effectiveness in country after country as part of a campaign to win a bigger share of a market worth \$4 billion a year.

"For every month they dragged their feet, we have as many deaths of babies as the Hiroshima disaster. For every week, the number of dead babies is equal to the Armenia earthquake," Mr. Fazal said. Some 140,000 people were killed when the

United States dropped an atomic bomb on the western Japanese city of Hiroshima in 1945. More than 25,000 people died in the Armenian earthquake in 1988.

Breast-feeding activists retaliated by organising a boycott that was called off only after manufacturers finally agreed in July to cooperate with the "baby-friendly hospital initiative," a breast-feeding promotion campaign by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"Every effort should be made to protect, promote and support breast-feeding," WHO and UNICEF said.

The campaign involves getting mothers to breast-feed within half an hour of giving birth, giving newborn infants nothing other than breast milk and allowing mothers and infants to share the same hospital room all day long.

Mr. Grant wants hospitals that implement the campaign's rules to be designated "baby friendly," and for mothers to check if the hos-

pital they plan to use follows this initiative.

The campaign encourages consumers to apply pressure to both doctors and hospital administrators, as well as the milk companies.

Mr. Fazal said milk companies, including aggressive new Japanese firms, would try to find a way to circumvent the ban in Third World countries.

"The companies have been giving excuse after excuse all these years. They have been dragging their feet for 10

years on the 1981 code. Remember, they are only joining this programme voluntarily," he said.

One of their tactics, Mr. Fazal said, was to forcefully push "follow-on" formulas for babies over six months.

"The kind of advertisement used has the effect of undermining breastfeeding in a significant way," Mr. Fazal said.

"That is why it is important to set up mother support groups around the world to encourage them to breast-feed."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

PICTURE ALBUM
By Don Johnson

1. "I Remember ..." (Irene Dunn) 33 Conjecture 53 Singer Haggard 90 Joyce Carol — 11 Two-year-old 34 Two-year-old 91 Big ... 92 ... for treating 12 ... 35 ... were the ... 93 ... area 13 ... 36 ... 94 ... 14 ... 37 ... 95 ... 15 ... 38 ... 96 ... 16 ... 39 ... 97 ... 17 ... 40 ... 18 ... 41 ... 19 ... 42 ... 20 ... 43 ... 21 ... 44 ... 22 ... 45 ... 23 ... 46 ... 24 ... 47 ... 25 ... 48 ... 26 ... 49 ... 27 ... 50 ... 28 ... 51 ... 29 ... 52 ... 30 ... 53 ... 31 ... 54 ... 32 ... 55 ... 33 ... 56 ... 34 ... 57 ... 35 ... 58 ... 36 ... 59 ... 37 ... 60 ... 38 ... 61 ... 39 ... 62 ... 40 ... 63 ... 41 ... 64 ... 42 ... 65 ... 43 ... 66 ... 44 ... 67 ... 45 ... 68 ... 46 ... 69 ... 47 ... 70 ... 48 ... 71 ... 49 ... 72 ... 50 ... 73 ... 51 ... 74 ... 52 ... 75 ... 53 ... 76 ... 54 ... 77 ... 55 ... 78 ... 56 ... 79 ... 57 ... 80 ... 70 ... 58 ... 81 ... 59 ... 82 ... 60 ... 83 ... 61 ... 84 ... 62 ... 85 ... 63 ... 86 ... 64 ... 87 ... 65 ... 88 ... 66 ... 89 ... 67 ... 90 ... 68 ... 91 ... 69 ... 92 ... 60 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Syria 'determined' to reclaim territory

(Continued from page 1)

Israel before multilaterals can begin.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader told Al Massawar he expects separate bilateral talks between Israel and Syria, Lebanon and a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to resume next week, probably in Washington.

Multilaterals might be held in Moscow, he said, but did not say

when American and Israeli officials in Washington said Tuesday that they will be next month in Europe.

In the interview, Mr. Arafat warned that the Middle East "will explode" if the current peace process fails.

He also said the Palestinians will not accept transitional self-rule proposed by the United States and Israel unless it is coupled with Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Opponents challenge negotiators

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians.

Efforts by Hamas activists to enforce a commercial strike during the Madrid peace conference cost the movement a great deal of support.

Hamas lost a major local election in the occupied Gaza Strip earlier this month to mainstream supporters. Nationalists backed by the Fatah movement won 13 of 16 seats on the board of the Gaza

Strip Chamber of Commerce. But Hamas' well-organized and highly motivated activists insist that Palestinian opponents of the peace talks still outnumber supporters.

"I believe the Palestinian people will not... sell out their land, and Israel will not give them (the Palestinian delegation) something that our people will accept," said an activist who did not wish to be named.

Iraq gets new interior minister

(Continued from page 1)

Yazid Revolution Command Council, the eight-man body chaired by President Saddam which is the country's highest authority.

President Saddam's son Uday has announced that he is temporarily suspending publication of his *Babylon* newspaper, a lively semi-official daily which broke with the staid style of Iraq's five official dailies.

No reason was given. Uday paid tribute to his father's support for the daily.

On Monday, President issued what appeared to be veiled criticism of Babil's style, which included coverage of Iraqi women turning to prostitution, a popular poll and some criticism of ministers which the rival media would not have printed.

President Saddam, visiting Ministry of Information headquarters in Baghdad, said the local media should concentrate on the jihad (holy war) Iraq was waging against United Nations' sanctions.

Israelis clash with UNIFIL

(Continued from page 1)

on the 1,100-square-kilometre "security zone" early in the month to underline its rejection of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union in Madrid. Israel usually retaliates for such raids with air and artillery attacks on villages accused of being used by guerrillas as a staging theater.

Hizbullah's attack came as the head of the Iranian foreign min-

istry's Middle East department, Mohamad Kazem Khonsari, concluded a one-week stay in Lebanon.

"Barbour (Walworth Barbour, "Barbour (Walworth Barbour,

Islamists threaten Algerian elections

(Continued from page 1)

Algeria away from the socialist system in which the National Liberation Front (FLN) had monopolised political life since independence in 1962.

The country now has 56 political parties, but experts believe that two of them — the FIS and FLN — command the support of about two-thirds of the country between them, with the FIS the stronger.

The intended transition to democracy has become a key test for Islamic fundamentalism, which throughout the Arab and Muslim world, rarely gets an opportunity to try its chances at the polls.

"If elections are organised without the FIS, it won't solve anything," a Western diplomat said.

Some Algerians believe that if the FIS chooses not to take part in the vote is unlikely to take place as scheduled.

Numbers add up to hunger in Iraq, but who pays?

By Andrew Hill
Reuter

BAGHDAD — The mathematics of U.N. sanctions add up to hunger for thousands of Iraqis this winter. But figures showing how the country imports food are far less clear.

Aid workers, both private and official, say that all available data points to hardship for the most vulnerable Iraqis this winter because of shortages and a world trade embargo.

"There are two million young, sick and vulnerable in this country. My impression is that Iraq is on a long-term slide," said Douglas Broderick, head of the U.S. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) agency in Iraq.

Mr. Broderick, whose agency started work in Iraq after the Gulf war, and other relief staff say the government is somehow managing to provide Iraqis with about one third of their food requirements at subsidised prices, but are puzzled how.

Iraq has never been more than 30 per cent self-sufficient in food. Government schemes to slash re-

quirements on imports were abruptly suspended by the Gulf crisis but the embargo has given fresh impetus to the plans.

The government has repeatedly said that it has no money. It says its \$4 billion of hard currency assets are frozen in foreign bank accounts by governments seeking war reparations or awaiting Iraq's total compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms.

It complains that it cannot import food and drugs and that shortages of both have caused the deaths of thousands.

"We are a rich country. We have oil. This should not happen," one official said.

"We have no money. Mehdii has frozen money," Minister of Trade Mohammad Mehdii Salih told Reuters in a recent interview.

Iraq never kept its dollars in Iraq. We kept 75 per cent in the United States," he said.

But be and other officials are coy about how the government manages to put limited quantities of flour, sugar, tea, oil and other essentials into government

shops where they are sold at a fraction of prices prevailing on a runaway free market.

The trade minister is proud of the fact that frozen French chickens have arrived in warehouses to be distributed at about one sixth of the market price. Asked how it managed to buy the birds, he replied: "I don't know."

Traders with access to hard currency can import what they want and sell their wares to the highest bidder. Rumours of tougher sanctions caused panic buying last month which emptied supermarket shelves.

Relief workers say that before August last year when the United Nations imposed a trade blockade to punish Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Iraq spent \$4 billion a year to feed itself.

This paid for imports as well as subsidising local production and accounted for the fact that Iraqis, by the standards of nutritionists, were over-fed, consuming 3,200 calories daily. About 2,200 is regarded as a healthy intake.

They may be below that level now, aid workers say, because of shortages — mostly of the money

required to buy food imported privately in the markets, where prices are often 60 times those at government shops.

"I would estimate that less than 50 per cent of Iraq's food needs are being met. The middle class and rich are spending their savings. The poor are living on whatever they can lay their hands on," said Mr. Broderick.

Back-of-the-envelope mathematics suggests that Iraq is spending \$1.3 billion a year to meet one third of basic requirements, or about \$100 million a month, aid workers say.

It is not allowed to sell any oil under the sanctions. The monthly bill could be met by selling about 156,000 barrels per day of crude or 4.7 million barrels per month.

Iraq has rejected strings-attached U.N. proposals that would have allowed it to sell a limited amount of oil.

Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti told Reuters that Iraq was producing only 450,000 BPD for domestic consumption and was selling nothing. "We cannot sell," he said.

China-Iran cooperation fuels new challenge to Bush policy

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — China's sale of nuclear technology to Iran has given fresh ammunition to Americans who criticise President George Bush for insisting on close ties with Peking.

When news of a China-Iran nuclear connection broke this week — and was acknowledged by Washington — Secretary of State James Baker was considering visiting the Chinese capital next month.

Now, congressional sources say, it would be harder than ever for Mr. Baker to justify such a trip in the eyes of many Americans critical of Peking's record on human rights and nuclear proliferation.

The nuclear controversy likely will erode even further the already frayed ties between two of the world's most powerful countries. They were badly damaged when Peking cracked down on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

The latest source of friction will come with Peking and Washington's report in the Washington Post on Wednesday that China had helped Iran develop a nuclear bomb.

U.S. officials confirmed that they believe Iran is actively seeking to develop a nuclear weapon and has bought equipment from China capable of producing enriched uranium used in such arms.

China said on Thursday it was helping Iran to develop nuclear energy for peaceful uses and denied reports it was helping Tehran produce nuclear weapons — a disclaimer not likely to satisfy the United States or other nations concerned about the spread of nuclear weapons.

Iran and the United States have been at odds since 1979 when Islamic fundamentalists overthrew the U.S.-backed shah and took 52 Americans hostage. They were held for 444 days in the U.S. embassy in Tehran, sophisticated equipment from China that could be used in civilian nuclear energy programmes

but was also capable of producing highly enriched uranium for atomic weapons.

"It appears that there is the sale of some nuclear-related technologies," Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon told a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on Wednesday.

"It's something that we have talked to the Chinese about and will pursue," he said. "It is a matter of concern."

As for China's disclaimer, members of congress who attended a closed-door briefing with U.S. intelligence officials on the nuclear-trade issue made plain they would not be dissuaded by any general protestations of innocence.

Senator Alan Cranston, a California Democrat, said his concerns about "reports Iran is developing a nuclear weapons capability with Chinese assistance have been greatly intensified."

He complained that the Bush administration has not done enough to discourage China's nuclear proliferation and argued that Mr. Baker either should not go to Peking on his Asia trip or should go primarily to press for an end to proliferation.

A congressional source who specialises in arms issues told Reuters that without China's help Iran could not build a nuclear weapon.

This source, who asked not to be identified, said Iran is also

talking to Pakistan, Argentina and Brazil but "none of them even comes close to China" in being able to offer the sophisticated technology for nuclear arms.

At least two dozen Chinese nuclear scientists are now in Iran, he said.

Mr. Bush, an envoy to Peking in the 1970s who has an unusually strong emotional investment in preserving the revived U.S.-China relationship, imposed sanctions on China after the Tiananmen Square massacre.

But he has resisted punishing China to the degree his critics have demanded.

Congress several months ago passed legislation that would end special trade benefits, called most-favoured-nation, or MFN, trade status, for China in 1992 unless Peking met concerns about arms proliferation and human rights.

Congress set that bill aside when Mr. Bush threatened to veto it, and administration officials are confident it is dead for this year.

But a senior U.S. official told Reuters U.S. grievances with China — the sale of missiles to Syria and Pakistan, the use of forced labour in exports products, human rights abuses and trade barriers — were so numerous "we're going to have renewal problems (with MFN) every year for some time."

Seminar condemns Israeli actions against libraries in occupied lands

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the conditions of libraries in the occupied Arab territories concluded Wednesday, with participants recommending acquainting the international community with the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities which attempt to create obstacles in the way of the cultural movement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The recommendations called

on the international community to pressure Israel in order to put a limit to its repressive measures against the population of the territories and their culture.

Participants in the three-day seminar, which opened at the Royal Cultural Centre Monday, also stressed the need for providing assistance to libraries in the occupied Arab lands and called for establishing a research and studies centre to promote the works of libraries.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

(Continued from page 1)

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Sports

Agassi starts title defence with victory over Becker

FRANKFURT (R) — American Andre Agassi began the defence of his ATP Tour World Championship tennis title in confident style by defeating Boris Becker in straight sets on his home German soil.

The 21-year-old world number eight served superbly and played some brilliant ground strokes to seal his first round-robin group match 6-3 7-5 in one hour and 39 minutes.

The result marked Agassi's fifth consecutive victory over the German world number three, who has not beaten the American since 1989.

The French Open finalist joined Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl, the oldest man in the tournament, and American Jim Courier as winners on the opening day's group matches at the Frankfurt event, the traditional end to the ATP Tour's season.

Lendl, 31, hardly wasted a second in a commanding 6-2 6-4 victory over Frenchman Guy Forget which took just 75 minutes.

His fast finishing contrasted sharply with Courier's energy-sapping 6-7 7-5 6-4 victory over Czechoslovak Karel Novacek in the first match of the day, which lasted a grueling two hours and 40 minutes.

Agassi's match did not start until 2255 local time but the American seemed wide awake. He broke Becker's service in the second game and went on to take the first set 6-3 in 42 minutes with a masterful display of accurate ground strokes.

Becker, roared on by the partisan German crowd in the indoor Festhalle Arena, had opportunities to get back into the match.

But he failed to take any of the four break points he had on Agassi's first service game of the second set. After the rest of the game went to serve, the American made a crucial break in the 11th game to take a 6-5 lead before serving successfully for the match.

Agassi said Becker was unlucky to lose the Group B match.

"He's played well every time we have played. But I thought he was just bottom line unlucky," Agassi said.

"It is really unfair that we were not out there playing a third set. He had five or six break points and I just had one and it worked out."

Becker was critical of the timing of the match. Organisers kept to a 75-minute break between the first and second match for television reasons.

"When the draw was made I asked if this was fair. TV is more important than tennis these days," Becker complained.

"It was a very close match but somehow I just couldn't get a break ... I'm going to dream about that game when I had four break points."

Lendl looked as sharp and eager as ever against the 26-year-old Forget despite a disappointing year in which he slipped to fifth in the world rankings, his lowest position for 10 years.

Courier, playing in the same group A as Lendl, had to work a



Andre Agassi

seventh game to run away with the first set 6-2 in 35 minutes.

Once he had broken the American again in the third game of the second set, the outcome of the contest never looked in doubt.

Courier, playing in the same group A as Lendl, had to work a

lot harder for his victory.

After losing the first set in the tiebreak, the American had to show all his competitive bite to overcome Novacek who only stepped into the tournament at the weekend after Sweden's world number one Stefan Edberg withdrew.

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Financial Markets		Jordanian Dinar			
In co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	NEW YORK	TOKYO			
	CLOSE Date: 12/11/91	CLOSE Date: 13/11/91			
Sterling Pound	1.7694	1.7713			
Deutsche Mark	1.6401	1.6383			
Swiss Franc	1.4540	1.4522			
French Franc	5.6025	5.5988*			
Japanese Yen	129.98	129.98			
European Currency Unit	1.2469	1.2475*			
U.S. Dolar per STG					
European Option of \$100 at 4.0000, GMT					
Spot currency interest rates	Date: 13/11/91				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	4.87	5.00	5.00	5.12	
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.12	10.06	10.06	
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.37	9.37	9.37	
Swiss Franc	7.75	8.00	8.00	7.93	
French Franc	9.12	9.12	9.12	9.25	
Japanese Yen	6.12	6.06	5.81	5.59	
European Currency Unit	9.57	9.75	9.81	9.81	
Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals	Date: 13/11/91				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	356.75	6.80	Silver	4.07	.089
*1 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin	Date: 13/11/91				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.6830	0.6850			
Sterling Pound	1.2057	1.2147			
Deutsche Mark	0.4164	0.4185			
Swiss Franc	0.4699	0.4722			
French Franc	0.1219	0.1225			
Japanese Yen	0.5250	0.5276			
Dutch Guilder	0.3647	0.3715			
Swedish Krona	0.1140	0.1146			
Italian Lira*	0.0554	0.0557			
Belgian Franc	0.02027	0.02037			
*Per 100					
Other Currencies	Date: 13/11/91				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahrain Dinar	1.7520	1.7910			
Lebanese Lira*	0.07735	0.07765			
Saudi Riyal	0.1818	0.1824			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	0.1850	0.1860			
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150			
Omani Riyal	1.7480	1.7510			
UAE Dirham	0.1850	0.1860			
Greek Drachma*	0.3672	0.3712			
Cypriot Pound	1.4760	1.4930			
*Per 100					
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	11/11/91 Close	12/11/91 Close			
All-Share	124.50	124.36			
Banking Sector	105.24	105.04			
Insurance Sector	125.91	125.94			
Industry Sector	153.60	153.48			
Services Sector	134.14	134.38			
December 31, 1990 = 100					

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7700/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1360/65	Canadian dollar
	1.6385/95	Deutsche marks
	1.8465/75	Dutch guilders
	1.4515/25	Swiss francs
	33.72/76	Belgian francs
	5.6000/50	French francs
	1233/124	Italian lire
	129.80/90	Japanese yen
	5.9830/80	Swedish crowns
	6.4210/60	Norwegian crowns
	6.3600/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	356.40/90	U.S. dollars

CONCORD	Tel: 677420
Adel Imam in SHAMS AL ZANATI (Arabic)	
Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	

Bread price rises sixfold in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Prices of superior quality bread rose sixfold in Moscow Wednesday, but shoppers at city bakeries reacted calmly to the news.

City Major Gavriil Popov announced that three different types of bread would now cost 60 roubles compared to the old price of 60 kopecks. The simplest type of black and white bread will continue at the old price of between 50 and 60 kopecks.

The rises are an advance measure before bread rationing cards are brought in at the end of the year to cope with growing food shortages.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has staked his political future on a swift transition to a market economy. His radical reform programme aims to free prices by January and privatise most state enterprises.

Many Muscovites, interviewed at state bakery no 675 in central Moscow, said they approved of phasing out big subsidies on bread although it is their staple food and widely considered the last safeguard against starvation.

Pointing to the sign displayed in most bakeries which reads "bread is our wealth," 45-year-old architect Alexander Seryov said: "They always say that, but it costs a lot to make bread and it makes to start paying the right price for it."

Shoppers said busy workers with no time to queue for bread would now be able to buy the three expensive round loaves, while pensioners with plenty of time but little money could stand in line for cheap kinds of bread.

The average pension is under 200 roubles a month, less than half the 500 roubles officially deemed necessary to survive in

Bankers, economists say Kuwait has sold off most of its liquid assets

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies)

— Kuwait sold off most of its liquid assets to raise \$30 billion spent since Iraqi troops left last February and long-term investments remain intact, Gulf-based bankers and economists say.

Kuwait was forced to draw down about \$25 billion of its overseas investments — estimated at \$100 billion — to get the country back on its feet while it was deprived of oil income, they said.

The assets sold by Kuwait comprised bank deposits, bonds and equity held in its trading portfolio, the bankers said. Strategic holdings in major foreign firms and fixed overseas assets were left untouched.

"Without generating any oil income, it's clear that they used a good portion of their liquid assets — they have drawn about 25 per cent of their total portfolio equivalent to around \$20 to \$25 billion," one senior economist in the region said.

"The way things are going, given the fact they have a smaller population and have paid off most of their war debts, I think their oil revenues and income generated from investment will be sufficient next year," one economist said.

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Bonn pushing for fast recognition of Croatia, Slovenia

Shelling stops in Dubrovnik

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — The Yugoslav army stopped shelling Dubrovnik just before noon (1100 GMT) Wednesday under a ceasefire agreed with Croatian authorities in the Adriatic city, Croatian radio said.

The ceasefire was apparently aimed at allowing a ferry into the port city to take out six European Community (EC) monitors, foreign nationals and other evacuees.

But there was confusion about whether the ferry had arrived or was on its way.

Tanjug News Agency said the Slavija ferry had entered Dubrovnik, which came under artillery fire Wednesday morning, but EC officials said the boat had not left the port of Zelenika 35 kilometers away.

"The ship is still in Zelenika and awaiting permission to proceed," Renilde Steeghs, an EC

spokeswoman, said in the Croatian capital Zagreb.

"We had agreed a ceasefire ... with the army but it will be of no use if the ship is not allowed to proceed as it will not get there on time," she said.

"We are trying to get a ceasefire for later in the day. We also have to agree a ceasefire with the Croat side."

Earlier Wednesday, the local Federal Naval Command confirmed a statement by Dubrovnik Mayor Pero Poljanic that there would be a truce.

Mr. Poljanic told British television he could not be sure that the ceasefire would take hold because repeated attempts to halt the fighting have failed since Serb-led federal forces besieged Dubrovnik on Oct. 1.

Croatian militias have been fighting the army and Serbian

irregulars since the Serb minority in Croatia took up arms to protest at the republic's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia in June.

Meanwhile Bonn officials said Wednesday, Germany wants the European Community to recognise Yugoslavia's breakaway republics by early December and could lead a majority in doing so if the whole 12-nation group can agree.

Bonn, which does not want to go it alone in recognising Croatia and Slovenia, has been winning support within the EC to take the step before the Community's Dec. 9-10 summit in the Dutch city of Maastricht, they said.

If a consensus is reached, EC leaders could announce it at the summit they want to devote to finalising controversial plans for their political and economic un-

ion, they added.

"They German government's efforts aim at finding a large majority among EC states for a recognition," said Ulrich Irmer, foreign policy spokesman for the Free Democratic Party (FDP), junior partner in Mr. Kohl's cent-

re-right coalition.

"As soon as this majority emerges, recognition will be announced," he told German

Gorbachev

blocking

Honecker

extradition

Yeltsin: Gorbachev blocking Honecker extradition

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin says his efforts to hand former East German leader Erich Honecker back to Germany to stand trial are being blocked by President Mikhail

Gorbachev.

"He is under Gorbachev's protection," Mr. Yeltsin said in an interview with the Hamburg weekly *Die Zeit* next week. A text of the interview was made available to Reuters Wednesday in advance of publication.

He revealed no target date for its arrival but government officials who asked not to be named said Mr. Gorbachev told them Monday that early December was his goal.

Monks pray, police patrol for Sihanouk's return

PHNOM PENH (R) — Saffron-robed monks prayed and hundreds of police patrolled Cambodia's royal palace amid frantic final preparations for Thursday's homecoming of exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk, once and future leader of the Khmers.

"I want to see the face of Prince Sihanouk because when he comes home he will bring peace," said an elderly shaven-headed Buddhist monk who sat cross-legged and chewing cheroot in the capital's largest temple Wat Ounalom late Wednesday.

Outside, painters raced to add final touches to the first coat of whitewash which the main streets have seen for years.

Portraits of the 69-year-old

prince as a young man gazed over road junctions and flashing fairy lights decorated buildings in the crumbling, electricity-starved

city.

Now he is head of the Supreme National Council, a reconciliation body made up of representatives

— the small, non-communist

Khmer People's National Libera-

tion Front, the royalists and the

communist Khmer Rouge, who

killed a million Cambodians during their 1975-1979 reign of terror.

All four factions have agreed to

make Prince Sihanouk head of state when a new government is chosen in a U.N.-supervised election called for in a peace treaty signed in Paris on Oct. 23.

The Cambodian government said Wednesday it would be extremely difficult to guarantee the safety of Khmer Rouge leaders when they return next week to the city their fighters emptied at gunpoint 16 years ago.

Khmer Rouge Defence Minister Son Sen, in charge of state security during the group's "kill-

ing fields" years, is to return Sunday to the capital for a council meeting.

Police guarded the palace, blocked off roads and directed thousands of onlookers gawking at carpenters finishing the \$200,000 palace renovation.

Not every citizen will cheer the

prince.

"I don't care if he comes back

or not," said a man operating a

jewellery stall in the market.

"But if peace comes there will be

no peace I will be unhappy if he does not come and there is peace I will be happy."

Indonesia regrets killings in Timor

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, bowing to international pressure, said Wednesday it would investigate an army shooting in East Timor which may have killed up to 100 people.

Witnesses said the army fired

on thousands of people in the

capital Dili Tuesday. The mar-

chers, in a show of defiance

against Indonesian rule, were

marking the death in riots two

weeks ago of an East Timorese.

Diplomats and independent

sources put the death toll at

between 20 and 115.

"We regret what happened but it must be realised that they

(fighters against Indonesian rule)

are brutal," Indonesian Armed

Forces Commander Try Sutrisno

told reporters. "We will investi-

gate the case and we regret it."

He said the army, which has

maintained a strong presence in

East Timor since it was annexed

by Indonesia in 1976, had only

begun shooting as a last resort to

restore order.

Gen. Try would only say that

fewer than 100 were killed, with

about 40 injured.

An army spokesman for the

region told the daily *Berita Buana* the incident started when the army discovered that more

than 100 separatists carrying Por-

tuguese-made G-3 rifles and gre-

nades had come down to Dili to

join the procession.

Regional army commander

Brigadier Sintong Panjaitan told

the daily *media Indonesia*: "The

authorities will never be in any

doubt about taking tough action

against any abuse of our person-

ative approach. The only order is:

"To kill or to be killed."

Timorese sources contacted in

Australia said the bodies were

buried in mass graves and troops

had conducted house-to-house

searches for independence sym-

pathizers.

Gen. Try said there were no

foreign victims, apparently mean-

ing deaths, though diplomats said

a young New Zealander was badly

hurt and there were reports that he had died. The New Zea-

land embassy was not immediately

available for comment.

Indonesia's Institute for the

Defense of Human Rights said

seven foreigners, including four

journalists and a tourist, had

been hurt.

Critics, among them current

and former agency officials, have

accused Gates of pressuring sub-

ordinates in earlier years into

writing reports tailored to the

strong anti-Soviet bias of the

Reagan administration. Gates, who

served as deputy CIA director

from 1986 to 1989, has also

been criticised over the agency's

role in the Iran-contra affair.

President George Bush, in

brief remarks at the swearing-in

ceremony, presented Gates with a

mandate to quickly move the

intelligence community "Beyond

the cold war to the complex

problems of the 21st century."

Under Mr. Gates, Mr. Bush

said, "we will dramatically ex-

and our human intelligence col-

laboratory efforts. We will give

our officers and analysts the very

finest in support technology."

Mr. Gates plans to ask for a

study on how to move the ad-

ministration's \$30-billion-a-year in-

elligence activities away from a

40-year preoccupation with the

Soviet Union and its East Euro-

pean satellites.

The intelligence community,

which includes the CIA and more

than a dozen other agencies, has

already begun to shift its priori-

ties to problems such as the

spread of nuclear and chemical

weapons among Third World

powers.

Mr. Gates has spoken of the

need to beef up human intelli-

gence — the agent network — in

addition to technological means

such as satellites and electronic

eavesdropping.

The degree of change will be

determined in large part by pro-

jected cuts of as much as 30 per

cent in the intelligence commu-

nity's budgets over the next five

years.

Mr. Gates, the first agency

insider named to the top job in